



Did YOU have a great time at the Cowbridge food & drink festival?

COWBRIDGE is basking in the glow of another successful food and drink festival – after the town was packed last weekend with visitors.

In a few short years, the event has pushed Cowbridge to the forefront of the foodie calendar – and the huge variety of stallholders who made the trip clearly shows how highly it is rated.

For Cowbridge, the weekend is not just about buying something

different for the pantry or the wine cellar. The *joie de vivre* and *bonhomie* created by the event meant that pubs in the town were packed out for the festival weekend!

The GEM was there too, sampling the food, the wine and the atmosphere – and also some of the more unusual offerings.

• For full details, see our special three-page food festival report on pages 21, 22 and 23.

Vale 'Flying Vet' returned to jail

VALE Flying Vet, Maurice Kirk, who spent almost 12 weeks undergoing a series of assessments in a Bridgend psychiatric unit, has been returned to Cardiff prison.

He appeared at Cardiff Crown Court on Monday, and was labelled "a fool" for insisting on conducting his own defence.

Mr Kirk, aged 64, whose home is at St Donats, had been sent to the Caswell Clinic, but was returned to prison by Judge Eleri Rees.

Judge Rees told Mr Kirk he had access to publicly-funded legal representation, but Mr Kirk dismissed her advice.

Mr Kirk said: "I wish to represent myself,



MAURICE KIRK

there's no need for further adjournment."

Judge Rees put Mr Kirk's case back until December 4 and told him: "A man who represents himself is a fool."

During his initial remand period on antique firearm charges in Cardiff prison during the summer, Mr Kirk went on hunger strike,

only taking sips of water. He was protesting at being refused permission to appear personally in court to ask a judge to give him bail so that he could prepare his own defence.

Mr Kirk was originally remanded in custody to Cardiff prison on June 25, to await trial on charges of unlawfully possessing an antique World War I firearm (a 1916 Lewis machine gun) and attempting to sell it without authority.

A day earlier, on June 24, he had been released on bail by Barry magistrates.

However, the prosecution appealed against his release at Cardiff Crown Court and he was then remanded in custody at Cardiff prison.

COWBRIDGE Town Council has been told by fire chiefs that enough retained firefighters have been recruited to begin the process of turning the town's station from day-crewed to retained.

The meeting heard that by December, there would be 17 retained firefighters on the books, who would undergo extensive training. It was planned to switch the station over completely to retained status by January 2012.

Deputy chief fire officer Kevin Barry, of the South Wales Fire Service and station commander Dewi Jones, both attended a meeting with councillors to explain what was happening.

Mr Barry told the meeting that there were only 58,000 fire fighters in the whole of the UK and 28,000 of these work under a retained contract.

He said that the retained fire fighters actually cover 90 per cent of the land mass of the UK, with full time firefighters concentrated in the cities and conurbations.

However – "you will not recognise retained fire fighters if you see them in action. That's because they are dressed, equipped and trained in exactly the same way as the full time crews. The concept of them being ill equipped part-timers is completely out of date."

In Wales, there were 3,603 firefighters and

1967 of these were retained. There were 100 stations manned entirely by retained crews.

The percentage of retained firefighters in north Wales was 66 per cent, in mid and west Wales 60 per cent, and in south Wales 38 per cent.

The south Wales service has 35 retained stations – 70 per cent of the total.

He said that the south Wales force had drawn up its risk reduction plans, which have been endorsed by the Welsh Assembly Government.

It required fire services to be citizen-centred and there was a need to identify where the greater fire risks were and then act accordingly.

He reported that an important part of their work was prevention of fires and to date, the brigade has carried out 100,000 fire risk assessments.

Mr Barry said that a number of other stations had switched from being full time manned to retained, including Caldicot and Abertillery, which would be fully retained by February. They were both fully crewed.

Station officer Dewi Jones stated that the Cowbridge station dealt with 120 incidents in 2008-09, including six property fires, but only one was residential. They attended 25 road traffic collisions in the year, of which four were fatalities.

At present, Cowbridge has 13 full time staff, although it should be 14. He said day-crewed sta-

by **JAYNE ISAAC**

tions were not popular and it was difficult in Cowbridge because the crews could not afford houses in the town. As a result, nine of the crew rent a property which they use for their four days on duty, but they live elsewhere with their families.

Only four of the staff live in Cowbridge and all four have said they are interested in becoming retained firefighters during their time off.

The fire service had staged an intensive recruitment campaign and had recruited 13 retained fire fighters. These were over and above the full time staff.

The retained fire fighters were now in the development stage and were working alongside their full time colleagues to enhance their training and gain experience.

He said that there were four others coming through the system and they would join the station by December, giving the station its full establishment of retained fire fighters.

As the retained fire fighters gain experience, it was planned to rede-

ploy three full time fire-fighters by April to other stations.

During the transition phase, the station would have two watches of five full time fire fighters, plus 17 retained fire fighters – a total of 27 people on call – who would respond to all incidents. They would all go out to incidents travelling in either the appliance or a back up vehicle.

The retained fire fighters would also be sent to incidents around the area, like Bridgend and Cardiff, to gain necessary experience.

Mr Jones was confident that the station would move to fully manned by retained fire fighters by January 2012.

In the meantime, the retained staff would undergo exactly the same training as full time fire fighters.

As well as the courses they attend, every retained fire fighters attends a weekly training session at the station for three hours.

"We will also be sending them to busy stations to gain experience. We would never put inexperienced people into the station. They will all go through the NVQ Level 3 course which is also undertaken by the full time staff."

Mr Barry insisted that

there was no such thing as a lower standard for retained crews.

"If you are at sea and being rescued by an RNLI lifeboat, you do not ask if the crew are part timers. If you look at the Territorial Army and what they do in the theatre of war, it is the same for us."

He said that the day crew members who live in Cowbridge remained committed to the station, and their experience would be vital for the retained fire fighters in the future.

"I will not stand by and listen to people saying that retained fire-fighters are odd job men and should resign. If that were the case, 90 per cent of the UK would have no fire cover."

Mayor Jon Harris asked if the change was prompted by a need to save money.

Mr Barry replied that as a public sector organisation they would like more money, but they had to manage with the resources they had.

Cowbridge handled less than 300 calls a year and was not a viable station. Also, the workforce did not like the day crewed stations and it was difficult to recruit people.

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 3)

'Is it policy to wait until someone is killed?' – councillor

THE problem of traffic travelling at excessive speeds in the town was again raised at Cowbridge Town Council during police liaison.

Coun Nicola Thomas complained about speeding traffic in Penylan Road, Aberthaw and Millfield Drive. She said people had complained, but the council had been told that as no accidents have occurred, not much can be done.

"Is it police policy to wait until somebody is killed? she asked Insp Mark Taylor. "We must have some action. Nothing is being done because there have been no accidents."

Insp Taylor said that

Millfield Drive was being looked at by the traffic department and the Vale Council to see if long term traffic management steps can be taken to reduce speeding.

It was up to the council to take it forward, but they needed statistics.

He added: "We have had three fatalities on the Llantwit Major by-pass recently. Our traffic department and the Vale are conducting traffic surveys to find evidence about what's happening there, horrific though these cases are.

"We hope to do something in the long term. There's a protocol to go through."

Coun Geoff Cox, Vale cabinet member for highways, said he had given a

full response to the issues of speeding raised by Coun Thomas at the last PACT meeting.

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REAPING A RICH HARVEST

SULLY Christian Fellowship wish to thank Mrs Williams and Sully Primary School Choir for the three items they sang at our Harvest Service which were so relevant.

The support of the 1st Sully Guides, parents and people from various groups in the village made it feel a real com-

munity event, and everyone enjoyed the service as the children helped the speaker, Rev John James with his flash cards.

The proceeds, together with a cheque for £100, have been passed on to 'Rainbow of Hope', a registered charity which provide meals for the homeless and food parcels for needy families.
Alan Phillips
Pastor

Only the 'lowest low life' would poison cats

OUR hearts go out to Stephen Griffiths and Sarah Jones and their two children who had their two cats poisoned in Gibbonsdown, Barry.

Whoever has done this has got to be the lowest lowlife and a coward to make innocent, defenceless animals suffer an awful death.

Whoever you are, shame on you.
Joanne and David Webb, Barry

Council tenants to be consulted

IWRITE with reference to D Harkus's comments in The GEM last week concerning council stock transfers.

As someone involved in the process of consultations with tenants at the moment in a neighbouring local authority, on proposals for housing stock transfer, I would like to assure Vale tenants that the council, as well as an independent tenant advisor service,

will fully consult and engage with tenants.

This includes a variety of methods to fully explain all aspects and information BEFORE any ballot of tenants is planned.

This consultation exercise is an absolute requirement that is critically monitored and governed by WAG, who would not allow any transfer to take place unless tenants are able to make a 'fully-informed choice' in the voting process.

K Clark, Cowbridge

Legion's thanks

THE Dinas Powys branch of the Royal British Legion would like to thank all those who supported their recent Remembrance concert on October 10.

More than 100 people attended the concert and many expressed their enjoyment of the evening's entertainment, requesting that the Llantisant Male Voice Choir be invited back next year.

It was a hugely successful evening, raising the grand sum of £800 for this year's Poppy Appeal.
Sheila Charles (secretary)
Dinas Powys RBL

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Readers' Letters

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'REPLACE THESE VERY CONFUSING LIGHTS'

IDO fully agree with last week's correspondent about 'cavalier drivers' amber gambling at traffic lights - yet after another personal near-miss at the

Llantwit Boverton Road lights last weekend, I also have to agree that these lights and the ones at Llanmaes Road are very confusing to drivers new to the area.

With the proposed influx of many more drivers once the St Athan Academy gets under way, I would suggest that some serious consideration be given to this area by the road planners.

The problem seems to be that the approach to the lights is confusing because the left and right hand filter lanes have dedicated lights at the junction and the centre (through) lane seems to have its set of lights further on past the junction.

This causes strangers to stop at the wrong set having inadvertently 'jumped' a red light

without realising it. I have been very close to having serious accidents there, not only with cars but once with a very large lorry, and on that occasion I had my young grandson on the passenger seat where the crash would have happened.

My wife has also had a few near-misses at this junction...

I would suggest that a set of lights be strung across the centre lane to make it perfectly clear to through drivers where they, too, should stop.

WE Henderson,
St Athan

Airport surcharges: created by airlines?

A RECENT letter writer, Mr Martin Chatham, criticised the management of Cardiff Airport in The GEM on October 22.

He made several points and will, of course, have done his research, but he surprised me when he said that the airport was levying high charges to the airlines.

I have always understood that far from the airport making these surcharges, it is the airlines themselves who make and benefit from such action.

After all, why should

the airport do anything to discourage the use of the facility they are trying to sell?

I don't believe that they are doing so.

Airports in the UK are in a similar position to the Highways Agency.

Roads can be built, but you can't force people to travel on them.

Airports can supply runways, but you can't force airlines to use them - especially if they can pick up twice the number of paying passengers from the Bristol giant across the water.

Mac Tanner, Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 5)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15-20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
29 Thur	03.55	11.6	16.19	12.3
30 Fri	04.46	12.6	17.17	13.0
31 Sat	05.37	13.2	18.01	13.7
01 Sun	16.19	13.8	18.42	14.1
02 Mon	07.03	14.2	19.24	14.4
03 Tues	07.43	14.5	20.05	14.6
04 Wed	08.23	14.6	20.49	14.7
05 Thur	09.06	14.6	21.32	14.5

'Put them in the town stocks'

SO the hanging baskets have been thrown in the river at Cowbridge. It is not long since the new trees by the river were cut down.

I have thought for a long time that the mindless people who do this sort of thing should be put in the stocks outside the Town Hall on a Saturday morning. If it rains, they could have umbrellas, (Name and address supplied)

How rail services can be improved

ON a non-political basis, I would support Plaid's call for more trains for the Vale.

I would like to see an adventurous policy by Arriva, who have greatly improved matters.

My idea would be for a halt at Aberthaw - little or no construction costs as the platform is

already there - and also a station to serve the proposed new Defence college at St Athan.

I would also like other people's views on the erection of a plaque at Llantwit Major station to commemorate all the hard work done by the late Lorna Hughes to get the Vale line repaired; she very much deserves it.

Stephen Newman,
Barry

Why repeal hunting ban?

FIVE years ago, Parliament followed the will of the overwhelming majority of the British public in bringing an end to the cruel practice of fox hunting with dogs.

I know how important the ban was to so many people here in the Vale of Glamorgan.

They will be shocked to learn that the Conservative Party have now made it absolutely clear that they would make it a priority to overturn the ban on fox hunting if they were to

win the next election.

With all the challenges in the world at the moment, why would any government think that one of the first things to do after a general election is repeal the ban on fox hunting?

Vale residents can be sure that I will be campaigning against any attempt to overturn the ban.

I hope local residents will join me by signing the online petition at www.backtheban.com. We can't let the Tories think they will get away with it.

Alana Davies
(Labour Parliamentary candidate, Vale of Glamorgan)

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FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188

HELPLINES

Alcohol and drugs:

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National Drugs Helpline 0800 776600

DASH 01656 650686

SSAFA - Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**

RAF Association Welfare Officer

01495 249522/01446 740522

SAMARITANS (emotional support)

01656 662333

VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755

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Freephone 0800 132 737

MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan

01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk

CHILDLINE 0800 1111

www.childline.org.uk

Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.

RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.

AIDS helplines 0800 567123.

Child abuse - NSPCC 0800 800 5000.

Alcoholics Anonymous - (24 hours) 0845 7697555.

Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.

Inroads Drugs Project - 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.

Vale Victim & Witness Support -

Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's

SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 11.30am (Wed 4-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.

Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999. Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

Town Council makes u-turn over public's views on planning

COWBRIDGE Town Council has reversed its policy on allowing the public to speak at planning meetings – after hearing that the Vale Council had decided against it.

The town planning committee discussed the situation after receiving information from the Vale's Scrutiny Committee, which had decided against allowing any third party

involvement at their planning meetings.

The committee recommended to the full town council that they also implement a policy of not allowing anyone to speak, although written representations can be made up to the day of the meeting.

When the recommendation came up for discussion at the town council, Coun Nicola Thomas said that the town council had previously agreed to allow people to make repre-

sentations of between three and five minutes at planning meetings.

But committee chairman Sue Cox insisted that it was wrong for their planning committee to do something that the Vale did not do.

She said that there was a judicial aspect to planning and people could say something against a planning application without the applicant having the chance to put up counter arguments. It would be the council that was liable and not individuals.

But Coun Thomas persisted and said that in

her view, people should have the right to make representations on planning applications.

She said that it was only in February that the council approved a policy of letting people speak.

"You can take a much more informed decision after hearing these views".

There was no second to her proposal to let people carry on speaking and the council voted to implement a ban on allowing outside representations to be made at the planning committee.

Vintage fair at Llanfair

A VALE mum is organising a 'vintage and handmade' fair at Llanfair Primary School, St Mary Church.

Nicole Burnett, a former museum curator, is organising The Pretty Nostalgic Home Show, between 1pm and 4.30pm on November 7-8 with displays and demonstrations on how to have an alternative Christmas.

At 2pm there will be a demonstration on 'thrifty and green gift wrapping', and at 3pm there is a demonstration on 'homemade country Christmas decorations'.

There will be a selection of vintage goods for sale for all rooms of the house – from china and teapots, to glassware, linen, furniture and jewellery – a sort of a vintage department store! Also lots of handmade items made by local crafters from vintage and recycled materials," she said.

"Vintage living is not just about using old things, but about

respecting the way things were done in the past. You can change the way you buy and use all goods, whether it's items for the home, clothing or gifts.

"A little bit of make-do and mend mentality teamed with a little thoughtfulness can not only help the planet, but can save you money and give you a unique and characterful home and a warm glow inside!" Nicole explained.

There will also be a traditional 'tea room' in the school canteen, serving homemade cakes and biscuits, served on vintage china.

"We use all sorts of bits and bobs to make our recycled crafts, so if you have any unwanted haberdashery, buttons, ribbons, etc and want to put them to good use, you can exchange them for free cake during the show," she added.

Entry to the fair is free and there is plenty of parking.

For further information, please contact Nicole Burnett on 01446 751500.

Fire station switch-over

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"They are effectively away from home for six months of the year. People do not want to live their lives like that."

"It's also about using the public purse wisely. My role is to ensure that we make the best use of the money we have."

The money being saved by changing four stations to retained would all be reinvested in the service.

"This is not a downgrading, it is an appropriate response to the operational needs of this community", he insisted.

"We will have 17

retained firefighters who all live here. They will be local people delivering a professional standard of service."

He explained that the decision was taken in 2006 – before the present financial crisis.

The requirement among the retained fire fighters was that they should be within five minutes of the station.

He assured members that anyone living further than five minutes away would not be recruited.

The fire officers were thanked for attending by Coun Harris and councillors were told that open days were being planned at the station.

Town Hall's income down, Cowbridge council told

INCOME from hiring Cowbridge Town Hall for functions is running at a lower level than expected, town councillors heard.

Giving the financial report, Coun Len Taylor said that for the first six months of the financial year, from April to the end of September, the hall had brought in £10,837 in fees.

However, the anticipated income for a full year included in the budget was £29,000 so the hall was more than £3,000 adrift at this point.

Coun Nicola Thomas asked if that was because of the economic downturn and Coun Alan Thomas, who chairs the Town Hall committee, said that there had been a lack of interest among organisations and individuals in hiring the hall at the moment.

He said that a number of regular organisations

had dropped out.

Clerk Andrew Davies said that July and August were traditionally quiet months and he said that they had just picked up a new booking for an event for young people. "We have found that the Saturday bookings and coffee mornings are not as popular. There has been a downturn in things like craft fairs and commercial ventures. I hope that the figure will improve once we have had the Christmas bookings."

Coun Jon Harris said that hire charges were not increased this year in a bid to keep them as attractive as possible.

Coun Taylor felt the charges were competitive but there was a need to encourage people to use the hall if possible. He said that it may be possible for would-be hirers to negotiate a price.

Anti-social behaviour in Cowbridge

THERE were nine reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in Cowbridge in September – up from the two reported in September last year and the five recorded in August.

Insp Mark Taylor told Cowbridge Town Council said that he had looked into this: two related to abandoned vehicles, and there were also reports of youth annoyance in Church Street on a Friday night.

There was also a problem at St Quentin's

Castle in Llanblethian, when a group of youngsters from Ogmog Vale were sent packing by police.

Asked by Coun Gwen Baty to quantify all the incidents, he said that two incidents related to eggs being thrown from a car in Aberthir; another was loud music coming from a house, one was a family dispute, and a person rode a motor cycle on the Downs.

"This is a broad area, but it means that people are reporting things to us and we then look to see if there's a pattern."

Vale AM sings the town food festival's praises



ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM with Roger Boltern, treasurer of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival.

VALE AM Jane Hutt was among the thousands who thronged into the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival at the weekend.

She was seen filling her bags with local produce, including Fairtrade provisions, as well as beef, lamb and venison from local farmers.

She also visited professional artists at work in their studios and work shops.

"It was excellent to visit the festival marquees, the Old Wool Barn and local shops for the wonderful Cowbridge Food and Drink festival. Well done to all for organising such a great event!" the Vale AM added.

Annual church memorial service

THE Parish of Pontyclun with Talygarn is holding its annual memorial service at St Anne's church, Talygarn, on Sunday, November 1 at 4pm.

This is a service for all who have lost someone close to them – be it a member of the family, a relation, a good friend or neighbour.

All are welcome and they will have the opportunity to come together in order to remember and celebrate the lives of the people who they

have loved, held dear, respected or esteemed, and give thanks for the way they touched our lives with words and deeds.

The service welcomes all local churches, neighbouring parishes, people of all denominations, church-goers and non-church goers; all who would like to attend the service will be most welcome. Afterwards, light refreshments will be served.

The Rev Grace Karamura, Vicar of the parish, and church members look forward to a service of celebration and thanksgiving.

Police warning on rogue traders

POLICE have issued a warning to householders in the Cowbridge area about rogue traders operating locally.

Insp Mark Taylor told Cowbridge Town Council that police were linking up with trading standards, after instances of elderly people being targeted by people who charge huge sums of money for small jobs.

He warned that police would be going around, challenging builders and others about how they are operating.

Coun Tony Williams said that there was

someone going around working on trees but had a threatening attitude and had frightened some female householders.

Insp Taylor said that there was a line to cross between hard selling and then moving into criminal behaviour. He urged people to contact police with instances of this happening so that they can build up a full picture and challenge those responsible.

"We need to know about it, although they have to commit a criminal offence before they can be prosecuted."

50mph speed limit on A48

A 50 mph speed limit is to be introduced on the A48 at Pentre Meurig.

The Vale Council has decided to impose the limit, decreasing speed from the present 60mph down to 50mph for a stretch of the road either side of the crossroads.

This will be part of a wider package of safety measures, including the installation of vehicle-activated warning signs, improvements to road markings and studs.

The object of the changes is to raise driver awareness of the lay-out of the road and the two junctions as a way of addressing the number

and severity of road accidents which involved personal injury at this site.

There have been nine accidents between April 2004 and March this year that involved personal injury.

One of the accidents was fatal, and another was serious with seven classified as slight.

Eight of the accidents were caused by driver error.

The proposed changes were welcomed by Cowbridge Town Council and it was agreed to note the letter as Pentre Meurig does not lie within its boundaries.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, 'Tynwydd', Llangan. (01656) 860303

Meet the people

A lady of courage: This week, my story concerns Mrs Susan Thomas, of Mount Pleasant Farm, Llangan.

Known affectionately as Susie in the village, she is courageously fighting a serious illness and the effects of the necessary treatment which will make her well again.

Susie has had a most interesting life. Born in Croydon, her family moved to Australia when she was one year old. Her travels have taken her to many interesting and sometimes dangerous places – at one time, she worked as an air hostess based in Kuwait. Susie's travels eventually brought her to Britain and Wales, where she would eventually meet her future husband David.

Their marriage took place on the beautiful island of St Lucia and David continues the family tradition of farming.

YHC

celebrates

THERE was jollification in the Young at Heart Club on Thursday, October 22 when members joined in celebrating Mrs Gwyneth Jones' 80th birthday.

There was birthday cake for everyone and something a little more potent than tea!

Gwyneth was later presented with a beautiful bouquet by club chairman Arthur Thomas.

When male members of the club are hospitalised, they receive a basket of fruit and so Mr William Jones, who has undergone surgery at the Princess of Wales hospital will be the recipient of the fruit.

Festive fayre

A SHOPPING fayre will take place in the Llangan and St Mary Hill community hall on Saturday, November 14 at 7.30pm-10.30pm when there will be a variety of goods suitable as Christmas gifts.

Looking back on a good year

YSTRADOWEN WI

IN October, members of Ystradowen WI held their AGM. Marilyn Tucker, one of the WI advisors for this area, presided.

Reports were given by the secretary and, as the treasurer was away on holiday, she had left a full financial report.

President Valerie Owen gave a report about her year in office, and then handed the meeting over to Marilyn Tucker for the business of the election or re-election of officers.

President Valerie was re-elected and accepted for one year only, and a new committee is now in place. Two new members joined our group.

After the AGM was closed by Marilyn Tucker, the members enjoyed a supper, previously prepared by the committee.

The next meeting is on November 4, when Steve Jarvis will take us into the world of 'confectionery and cake'.

We meet every first Wednesday of the month at Ystradowen village hall, where a warm welcome awaits.

We also take a short stroll around the beautiful lanes of Ystradowen every second Wednesday of the month, starting from The White Lion at approximately 10am, and usually ending up in the home of one of the members for coffee. **AM**

And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5 (Cowbridge Christian Fellowship)

Y BONT FAEN'S 'FAMILY FEELING'



Two new mums with Richard Watson (chair of the PTA) and Meic Griffiths (right).

NEW parents at Y Bont Faen School were invited to a 'Meet the Head' coffee morning, organised by Y Bont Faen PTA.

The headteacher, Mr Meic Griffiths, is keen to meet all new parents to nursery to encourage a Y Bont Faen family feel to the school.

The PTA, with Costco's support, providing pastries for the morning event, held a Fairtrade coffee morning and showed all new parents the new PTA booklet they have been working hard to produce over the last year.

Charlotte Lord, the secretary of the PTA, has collated the relevant information that any new



ABOVE:
PTA secretary Charlotte Lord (right) welcomes a new parent.

parent needs to know about the fund-raising fun-activities for parents and children alike and, over the last five years,

the PTA has raised approximately £5,000 each year to enrich the students' activities and learning.

Town Council to press CAB case for Vale funding

COWBRIDGE Town Council has come out in favour of continued funding for the Vale of Glamorgan Citizens Advice Bureau.

Coun Len Taylor submitted a motion to the council that representations be made to the Vale Council urging them to keep the level of financial support for the CAB in the new financial year at the same level as the current year.

He said that he attended the AGM of the organisation and that a

satellite service was once again being offered in Llantwit Major because of the economic downturn.

The government had made extra funding available to expand services.

He recalled the bureau in Cowbridge and said that his late wife was one of the volunteers. "A lot of people used to pop in for advice. The service now provided at Llantwit Major is well used and is highly valued. I felt that the least we could do was to recognise that the Vale Council will be strapped for cash and will have no extra money.

"I thought we could encourage them to give priority to CAB when preparing next year's budget."

He was supported by Coun Gwen Baty, who said she was a member of the management committee of the Cowbridge CAB.

"It was a sad day when it closed. It's most important that the town council gets behind this resolution."

It was passed unanimously.

Art practical

ON November 5, at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, there will be a Cowbridge Art Society practical led by Jane Gagg, based on the work of Kyffin Williams and Phillip Sutton. As always, non-members will be made very welcome.

Members are reminded to hand in entries for the annual exhibition either on Thursday evening or November 6, between 10am-12noon.

Charity sale

THE Cowbridge Red Cross is holding a mini fabric and remnants sale (and related items) on Friday, November 6, at 10.30am-12.30pm, at the broad Shoard centre. Entry is free.

VILLAGERS MEET WITH VALE AM OVER LOSS OF HEALTH OUTREACH SERVICE



Jane Hutt AM meets with concerned local residents.

FOLLOWING residents raised by residents at Peterston Super Ely, regarding the loss of their GP outreach service from the Fairwater Health Practice, Vale AM, Jane Hutt, chaired a meeting to discuss the issue.

She reported that more than 20 people attended, including the over-60s club, who were

particularly concerned about the frail and elderly who do not have access to their own private transport.

Also present was Coun Rhodri Traherne and the Community Council.

Jane Hutt said she had raised the matter with the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, the Vale of Glamorgan Community Health Council and the

Fairwater Health Practice who have agreed to meet her to discuss the concerns that have been raised.

"It was a very constructive meeting and I look forward to meeting with the Practice, Health Board, Community Health Council and local representatives to consider a way forward," she added.

Traffic warden issued 14 penalty notices in a day

A TRAFFIC warden drafted into Cowbridge for the day issued 14 fixed penalty notices for illegal parking, town councillors heard.

Insp Mark Taylor said that in addition, PCSO Hilary O'Callaghan had also been on patrol issuing tickets but he did not have details of how many.

"We will keep doing this. It is a priority. I will also bring in the traffic

warden again. We need to keep doing this to get the message out there. We must be consistent."

Police were facing a busy period with Halloween and bonfire night coming up. Visits were being made to shops that sell fireworks to ensure that they are not flouting the law.

Trading standards were involved and the aim was to educate shopkeepers.

He said that most of the officers available

would be working on both evenings and they would be patrolling all the places young people gather.

"This has worked well in the past few years. Putting officers on the ground stops problems at source. There is no police leave on those days. Last year's

Hallowe'en was a lot quieter than normal. It's about getting police in the right place at the right time."

He added that with Christmas approaching, police officers would be visible on the streets of Cowbridge and Llantwit Major as a reassurance to shoppers and traders.

Town Council news in brief

COUN BRIAN GIBBONS has taken his seat on Cowbridge Town Council, having been recently co-opted to fill a vacancy.

He was welcomed by mayor Jon Harris. The other new councillor John Wilkes had a long-standing engagement and sent his apologies. **THE problem of over-hanging branches obscuring the visibility of motorists exiting Tyla Rhosyr in Cowbridge is being tackled, town councillors were told.**

Coun Nicola Thomas, who first raised the issue, was told by Coun Geoff Cox that he had asked staff to investigate and take action if they felt there was a danger. **COWBRIDGE Town Council is to register a piece of common land adjacent to Factory Brook, Llanblethian.**

Coun Gwen Baty said that the land belonged to the council but someone else could claim it unless

it was registered. She said it should be used as a public open space.

This was agreed. **COWBRIDGE Town Council is to make the following grants: Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Cross Church, £50. Proceeds of the festival will be split between the church restoration fund and Velindre Cancer Care. Urdd Gobaith Cymru annual eisteddfod, £75. THE hearing loop system for the deaf and hard of hearing, installed in the council chamber at Cowbridge Town hall, is to be upgraded at a cost of £1014.**

The work will make it more effective.

TOWN PARADE
THERE will be an Armistice day parade at Cowbridge on Sunday, November 8.

It will assemble at the town hall at 10.20am for wreath laying at the war memorial and then march up to Holy Cross Church, returning to the town hall afterwards.

Problem: how to keep rats out of a churchyard

A MEETING has taken place between parish officers at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, and town councillors.

Coun Andrea Burges reported that the meeting was called to discuss problems in the grounds outside the church, with parish officials stating that there are holes in the ground that are encouraging rats into the area.

The church wants the council to act to block up the holes to stop the rats coming through.

Coun Burges added that the parish administrator asked the council to remove building materials dumped in the grounds as this was the council's responsibility.

However, Coun Jon Harris stated it was the

church's work and it was up to them to clean it up.

He added: "Does he think we can stop rats? How can we, when they are running about all over Cowbridge."

"The rat catcher has been there and he says that there are rats in the church and they are being attracted by rubbish."

Coun Nicola Thomas said she visited the site and had a walk around and there were a lot of holes in between the trees and the wall.

"There were also grey squirrels there and they could be causing the damage. We could look at getting some eradication carried out."

The leisure and amenities committee will look into these issues and report back to the full council.

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VALE VILLAGE HONOURS LOCAL MAN AFTER AFGHANISTAN WAR RESCUE



LEFT:
John and Julie
Hooper.

ABOVE:
The Hooper family
together again.

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON



THE village of Peterston-super-Ely met last Friday evening, (October 23) to honour the son of a local couple – an Army Captain who is recovering after being wounded in Afghanistan.

Captain Lawrence Hooper was the guest of honour at a charity dinner organised by his parents, John and Julie Hooper, in the church hall.

Appropriately, the dinner was in aid of the 'Help for Heroes' charity, and the 120 places were taken rapidly, with more than 200 villagers wanting to attend.

Cpt Hooper is currently seconded to the UN while he is recovering from gunshot wounds to his leg – wounds he received in action against the Taliban.

In fact, 'Help for Heroes' was doubly appropriate, because Cpt Lawrence's rescue was an act of heroism in itself.

That rescue took place under enemy fire, and the two soldiers who evacuated him from the war zone were both honoured, with one receiving the Military Cross, and the other being mentioned in dispatches.

The Hoopers have lived in the village for 25 years.

Lawrence went to Peterston school, and then on to Radyr Comprehensive.

The dinner was prepared by Julie Hooper and friends, and was deliberately kept simple, with the charity fund in mind. It was served to the 120 guests by local youngsters.

It was followed by a raffle and an auction, and the evening raised £4,000.

LEFT:
Cpt Lawrence
Hooper with guests.



ABOVE: The waiters and waitresses were sons and daughters of villagers.

Dog fouling: 'NAME AND SHAME THE OFFENDERS'

THE vexed question of dog fouling was again raised at Cowbridge Town Council.

Coun David Morris said that there were reports of dog fouling taking place all over the town: "I asked some time ago if we could raise public awareness of this problem. Can we ask the Vale to reinforce our concerns on this?"

Coun Geoff Cox pointed out that the Vale dog fouling wardens had been in Cowbridge, but they could be requested again.

"But they cannot tackle this on their own. People should report anyone they see letting their dogs foul. It is anti-social."

Coun Morris reported that he sees evidence of it first thing in the mornings when he is walking his own dogs.

"We must highlight the fines that can be imposed. We should name and shame if necessary."

Coun Cox responded that there were notices attached to many of the lamp posts.

Coun Gwen Baty said there was a need for more bins because people were leaving their blue bags containing dog poo strewn through playing fields and other areas.

"They are just leaving their bags. We should provide more bins."

Coun Tony Williams said that people did not want to be seen carrying these bags – but, in my opinion, it is a badge of honour," he added.

It was decided to ask the leisure and amenities committee to see where extra bins were needed in the town.

Lesson on road maintenance from out west

WITH reference to TP Varley's letter on highway maintenance published last week, I wrote in similar vein in September 2007 – following the trumpeting by the VGBC of its award for excellence in highway maintenance and the fact that it was proud of the service it provides!

In particular, I highlighted the deplorable state of the roads connecting St Hilary with Howe Mill and the road from Llanmaes out to the road linking Cowbridge and St Athan. Needless to say, nothing has changed since then.

Predictably, I received a two-page letter full of statistics and jargon, which finished by suggesting that the performance of the department

should not be judged by the road surfaces, but also by the provision of street lighting and winter maintenance (presumably gritting?).

Once again, I urge the ivory tower brigade to leave their safe haven in Barry Borough Council's offices (and I use the name advisedly) to see for themselves the non-existent road lighting in a large part of the rural Vale.

They should perhaps save their trip for frosty weather when they would also discover that there is very little in the way of any winter maintenance.

I also suggest that they contact their opposite numbers in rural Pembrokeshire and Cornwall to see how it's done properly and with, I would guess, a far lower council tax income.

**Lyn Wilson,
St Mary Church**

Volunteer surgeries

THE Volunteer Bureau will hold the following outreach surgeries to offer advice and information on the 700plus volunteering opportunities in the area.

Wednesday, November 4, Cowbridge Community College, 11am-1pm. Friday, November 6, Llantwit Major Library, 10am-12pm.

We welcome your news, views and sports items.

*Please email them to the Editorial Department at:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk*

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GIFT OF £330 FOR RESCUE KENNELS



LEFT: Pictured (from left to right) David Owen, Alan Shovlar, Janet Long (manager) and Philip Morgan (owner) of Croft Rescue Kennels being presented with a cheque for £330 by Vicky Barree, Community Matters co-ordinator for Waitrose Barry.

Councillor joins NHS watchdog

VALE councillor Dorothy Turner has been appointed as the local government representative on the new University Local Health Board (uLHB) which has taken on responsibility for NHS services across Cardiff and the Vale.



Coun Dorothy Turner.

Coun Turner, who represents the Cornerswell ward in Penarth, is cabinet member for social and care services, the council's old people's champion and children's champion, chairman of the corporate parenting panel and a representative on Disability Wales.

She commented: 'I'm delighted that the Minister for Health and Social Services has appointed me to this important position. "It provides an excellent opportunity for the council to ensure that the needs of Vale residents are given proper consideration in decisions across the whole range of NHS services, including primary care and acute hospitals."

CROFT RESCUE KENNELS has received a cheque of £330 thanks to the Community Matters scheme run by the Waitrose store in Barry.

The money helped towards surgery for French bulldog, Tia, pictured in the arms of Croft manager Janet Long – to remove growths in both of her ears. Tia is now making great progress and is now a very happy dog.

Tia has been at Croft

Rescue Kennels for four months, and is one of many dogs which are brought to the kennels by the Dog Warden covering the Vale of Glamorgan.

The kennels receive funding for only the first seven days after a dog arrives in their care – after that all costs are borne by Philip Morgan the owner.

Waitrose donates £1,000 each month to local charities and good causes, as nominated and voted for by their customers.

TEXTILE SECRETS

At the next meeting of the Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers on Wednesday, November 11, Louise Mumford will be talking about the Langorse textile secrets of an early Medieval masterpiece and how it was discovered.

The meeting is at Old School, Sulby, at 7.30pm. For further details, telephone Jean Roberts 01920 627326.

'Oxjam' brings another star attraction to the Cowbridge food festival

by PHILIP IRWIN

FOR those visitors who were exhausted by the non-stop tasting of wines, beers and food-stuffs, the Living Cafe was a great place to take a break during the Cowbridge Food

and Drink Festival.

In a charity event to highlight the work of Oxfam, local musicians staged an 'Oxjam' and various acts took to the stage during Sunday afternoon.

Tired festival-goers were able to relax with a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee, and listen to the bands.

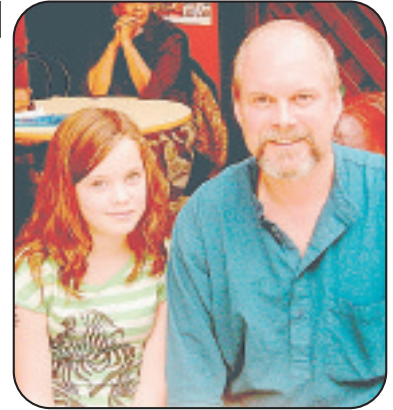
While this reporter was taking his break, a new young local band stepped up and made a big impression.

It was back to the good old days of jazz rock, in the spirit of Chicago, Blood Sweat and Tears or the Average White Band as Funktion – made up of four Brynteg and one Cowbridge Comprehensive pupils – played a rousing set.

Here's a 70s pop quiz question for you.

Which song has the opening line – 'I'm the friendly stranger in the black sedan, won't you hop inside my car?'

Well Funktion did a great version of a song



ABOVE: Charlotte Rosser and father Peter.

that this reporter hadn't heard in 30 years*.

So, keep an eye for the band, made up of Steph Kitchen (drums), Pete Komor (bass), Ben Dolton (guitar), Charlotte Davidson (saxophone) and Matthew Craven (saxophone). Steph is the Cowbridge one.

Earlier, Charlotte Rosser, a year-7 pupil at Cowbridge Comprehensive had played the guitar and sung, and she was followed by her father, Peter Rosser, from Pencoed.

During the afternoon, they were followed by many more acts.

*The song was 'Vehicle' by the Ides of March.



ABOVE: Another act on stage for 'Oxjam' was Paul. (Photograph by Richard Skinner.)



ABOVE: Funktion in full flow at the Living Cafe.

Cadets sample adventure training in the Black hills!

RECENTLY, Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) and 30F (Ely) Squadrons, travelled to the Black Mountains for a weekend of adventurous training.

The aim was to train the Cadets to a competent degree of navigation and team building skills. Walks were of moderate difficulty, typically 17 km, and gave some younger Cadets a real taste of the outdoors.

The route followed a mixture of well defined paths, tracks, forestry sections as well as moderate climbs. The groups worked very well, encouraging and assisting each other throughout the weekend.

The pace throughout the day remained brisk, with heavy rain through-



LEFT: The local cadets fly the flag on Sugarloaf mountain.

out the weekend.

Cadet Eloise Johnson said: "It was really cool and the views from the top of Sugar Loaf were amazing. I didn't enjoy the weather, but I learnt so much which will help with my Duke of Edinburgh expedition."

Adventurous training forms a very important part of the Cadets training. Rigorous training on

the Squadron covers – team building, leadership, mountain craft, camp craft, safety training and navigation before going on the hills.

Recently, the Squadron has travelled to the Forest of Dean and Neath Valleys in preparation for their forthcoming Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions.

Cadets Megan Palmer-Wood, Eloise

Johnson, Sophie Gildersleve and Rhys Thomas benefited from this taste of the great outdoors.

372 (Barry) Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays (7pm-9.30pm) behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall); telephone 01446 747734, or email

372@aircadets.org
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Housing transfer: tenants to decide

WRITE in response to the letter in last week's Glamorgan GEM headed 'Council stock transfer: how can tenants decide'.

Firstly, the debate at full council was one of a number of detailed discussions held by the council on the question of consulting and balloting tenants on the two available options - stock retention or stock transfer.

In addition to full council, very detailed discussion had taken place at the Scrutiny Committee (housing and public protection) and at the cabinet.

On all occasions, the discussions were held in open meetings to which the public are invited to attend.

Secondly, the consultation process with existing council tenants is monitored by the Welsh Assembly Government and is required to be full, open and impartial, and tenants will be provided with easy to understand information explaining the advantages and disadvantages of both options.

All information given to tenants through the formal consultation process will be approved by the Assembly's Deputy Minister of Housing prior to this being communicated to tenants.

An independent tenants' adviser

will also be provided for the duration of the consultation process, to ensure that tenants have an independent person to provide advice, answer questions/concerns and to take their views back to the council.

Thirdly, the consultation process is, by necessity, a lengthy process and will last for about a year before tenants are asked to vote through a ballot conducted entirely independently of the council.

The length of the consultation process is necessary because the matter is a complex one, and tenants will be given every opportunity to fully understand the options they are being asked to vote upon.

The key point, however, is that the question of transfer or retention is the choice of the tenants. The council believes that tenants should be given the right to choose whether transfer provides the right option for them, or whether they prefer to remain with the council.

Both options will be fully explained through the consultation process.
Coun Paul Church
(Cabinet member, housing and community safety, Vale of Glamorgan Council)

Local bridge clubs compete for children's charity

COWBRIDGE Bridge Clubs are again holding competitions in aid of Children in Need.

Dates: Vale of Glamorgan Club, November 16 at 7pm; Llanbleddian Church Hall, November 17 at 7.30pm; Old Hall, Cowbridge, November 18 at 7pm; Village Hall, Penlyne, November 19 at 7pm.

A spokesman said: "The cost per entry is £3, or any higher amount you wish to contribute. Since this national event commenced in 2002, we have raised nearly £5,000 and nationally, a total of over £350,000 will have been exceeded this year.

"With the help of over 100 businesses, we hope to exceed last year's excellent amount of £860."

For further details, contact Brian Swain at 9 Town Mill Road, Cowbridge, CF71 7BE (Tel. 01446 773956) before November 10; or David Wright on 01446 773805 after November 11.

'Back Bosch workers' Welsh Assembly urged

THE Vale MP, John Smith, has called on the Assembly to do "everything it can" to support the Bosch plant and its workers at Miskin.

Mr Smith pointed out that Bosch announced a 90-day consultation process with its workforce over the possibility of having to lay off 300 employees in 2010, and possibly closing the plant in 2011 - if no commercially viable new business is available.

"Having met with Bosch managers earlier this year, I knew the plant and its workers were facing very difficult times due

to a dramatic drop in sales. I am deeply concerned about the current situation which has greatly deteriorated.

"Bosch is a valued and important employer. I have written to WAG seeking assurances that they will redouble their efforts to help secure the future of the site - and, more importantly, provide every assistance to workers who are made redundant to find alternative employment in the area," the MP revealed.

The Vale AM, Jane Hutt, has also added her support for the workforce. Ms Hutt said: "I was extremely disappointed to hear this disturbing news. I

have had meetings with the Bosch management and plant council regarding the situation at the plant, and have previously written to the chairman of the board, Mr Franz Fehrenbach, to urge him to take account of the skills and contribution of the Welsh plant at Miskin.

"A great deal of money has been invested into the plant by Wales and the company, which is meeting with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

"I believe it is important that no further action should be taken regarding the future of this plant until after these discussions," the AM added.

PACT

A PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 4, at 6pm in the church hall, St Brides Major.

Car park gate

THE Vale Council has drawn up plans for a gate at the Omore-by-Sea beach car park.

The Vale Council want people's views on the subject before making any decisions. Go along and put your views forward. As many people as possible are welcome to attend the meeting.

Planning

AT a planning meeting held at the church hall on Monday, October

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

26, the following observations were made on the following applications -

Dwelling in the garden of No. Heol-y-Ysgol, St Brides Major; amended application for Dros-y-Mor, Southerndown; extension to a cottage at Crwys Cwtr, Castle-upon-Alun, St Brides Major; the closure of Pant quarry except for re-cycling and for a lagoon (lake) on the quarry floor. Observations from the

public welcome.

Poppies

POPPIES are now on sale in various local establishments.

Please give generously to enable the British Legion to continue their work for servicemen and their families.

Remembrance services will be held at St Bridget's Church, St Brides Major at the earlier time of 10.45am and at the Ewenny War Memorial, where wreaths will be laid.

Under-15s stop Eagles from soaring with win

COWBRIDGE under-15s have enjoyed good form of late.

On October 3, they won 5-1 against Cadoxton Imps, and on October 10, earned a 1-1 draw with Sully 'A'.

Another win on the final Saturday of the month was hoped for to make the team unbeaten in October.

It was a wet and windy morning as Cowbridge were led out by Sam Roberts.

Prior to kick-off, Cowbridge had to make an emergency substitution as they did not have a goal keeper, but Mike Barnett bravely stepped up and agreed to try his luck in goal.

The game got off to a great start, as Cowbridge played their open, free flowing passing game.

In the opening moments Cowbridge attacked down the

left through Jenkins, who crossed into the danger area, but despite the goal being open,

Cowbridge could not finish.

From the restart, Roberts collected the ball passed down the left to Lloyd. His cross met Jenkins, who smashed the ball against the post.

The game was dominated by Cowbridge and from another attack they forced a corner.

Mallows crossed to Hewitt, who was outside of the box, and he hit the ball with his weaker left foot into the top left hand corner of the goal. The boys then settled down and allowed the Eagles back into game and they equalised from a corner.

Ingram then entered the field of play and made an immediate impact, scoring a fine solo goal to make the score 2-1 at half time.

The second half began, and immediately Hewitt picked up the ball and passed to Roberts who neatly found Mallows.

He made a great pass to Edwards, who cleverly drew the Eagles

defenders and then released Jenkins who made no mistake and scored.

From the kick off, Cowbridge won the ball, and Ingram set off on a solo run, and almost beat every Eagles player, neatly slotting the ball past the keeper to score a brilliant individual goal.

Price entered the fray to give Cowbridge some pace down the wing, while the back four of Freeman, the Fleming brothers and Fleet did not put a foot wrong all afternoon.

However, the goals and defending were outdone by the magnificent display of goal keeping by Barnett, who played out of his skin.

In the final moments of the game Cowbridge attacked and again Ingram was there to finish and score his hat-trick, claiming the match ball.

Final score 5-1, and man of the match was Mike Barnett.

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'Give Vale Council powers to ban binge drinking in the area' – says candidate

THE Vale Council should be given powers to ban 24-hour drinking in the area, Labour parliamentary candidate Alana Davies said this week.

She was commenting on the proposal at Labour's party conference by the Prime Minister combined with a tough crackdown on alcohol-related disorder, including drink-related ASBOs for those convicted of serious crime fuelled by alcohol.

"We face a growing problem with binge drinking and long term heavy drinking, and some bars and clubs have helped turn some of our town centres into no-go areas.

"I support giving local authorities like the Vale of Glamorgan Council the power to ban 24 hour drinking across the whole community in the interests of local resi-

dents whose lives are being blighted by this problem," she commented.

Mrs Davies has also pledged that, during her campaign, she will only accept donations from British taxpayers and

challenged other parliamentary candidates to do the same.

"Public trust in politicians and the party donations system is at an all-time low. I believe most people want parliamentary candidates to refuse

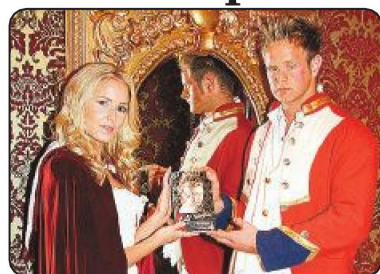
donations from people who do not pay tax in the UK.

It's a matter of accountability. I have today made the commitment not to take a single penny from tax exiles," she added.

Barry's Miss Wales starts new chapter

LUCY WHITEHOUSE from Barry, Miss Wales 2009, and Swansea's Mark Tancock, Mister Wales 2009, stepped back in time to mark the forthcoming launch of a new series of historical romantic fiction by Welsh publishing house, Everlyn.

Owned by husband and wife team Richard and Lynda Tunnicliffe, Everlyn is pitching itself against the likes of Mills



& Boon with the release of 'Lady Notorious' and 'Fallen Angel' to the UK market.

Lucy said: "It's been great fun dressing up in

Lucy and Mark.

these costumes which are so different to the slinky gowns I would normally wear as Miss Wales."

COWBRIDGE FASHION SHOW BOOSTS NSPCC

A LEADING children's charity was the beneficiary when Becki's, a leading ladies designer clothes store on the High Street in Cowbridge, recently held an in-store fashion show in aid of NSPCC Cymru/ Wales and raised £450 for the children's charity.

Customers attending the event were treated to coffee and tea, homemade cakes and raffle prizes while enjoying the fashion show.

Staff and customers modelling the latest from the store strode down the catwalk in the new autumn and winter ranges from fashion labels such as Basler, Frank Walder, Oui Moments and Marcona.

Awen Evans, longstanding member of the NSPCC Llantwit Major committee and the store owner, said: "The coffee morning was a great success and everyone had a wonderful time. The morning was so popular that the ladies were queuing up to get in half an hour before!

"The models strutted their stuff to songs like 'She's a Lady' by Tom Jones, 'Here Come the Girls' by the Sugababes and 'Dancing Queen' by Abba, with a finale in raincoats to 'It's Raining Men'.

"I would like to thank the NSPCC Llantwit Major committee, who all worked so hard. The raffle was also a huge success, and the event raised £450."



ABOVE: Model Joyce Birmingham strides down the catwalk during the fashion show at Becki's in aid of NSPCC Cymru/Wales.

Local pupils celebrate National Poetry Day

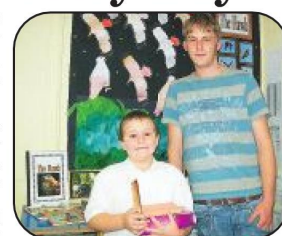
THE year-3 pupils at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School recently celebrated National Poetry Day in a very unusual way.

They had a special visitor, Gwen the red-tailed hawk, accompanied by her owner, David Boffy, and the children thoroughly enjoyed being up close to such a magnificent bird.

They asked questions and gained lots of information about Gwen and other birds of prey.

The visit inspired the children to write their own poems, which were later judged by David.

They were so good that he had a difficult task, but he returned the following week to present the first prize of a box of chocolates, a note pad and one



The award is handed over.

of Gwen's feathers to the winner, Daniel Griffiths.

The year-3 children and their teacher, Mrs Williams, warmly thanked David and Gwen for an exciting and inspirational lesson.

LM

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Focus on youth: paying tribute to the children of foster parents in Wales

DURING the half-term week, I was delighted to sponsor an event in the Senedd for young people in Wales who share their parents and their homes with children who are fostered by their families.

This was the 'Sons and Daughters of foster parents event' organised by Fostering Network Cymru. It involved young people from Carmarthenshire and the Vale who worked together to produce a series of presentations for the event and for a CD, which will be shared across Wales with young people in the same position.

Our statistics show that approximately 75 per cent of children in care are placed with foster families who provide such an important and valuable role in supporting children who are 'looked after', providing them with support, friendship, making them feel 'at home' and sharing so much of their lives with those they are fostering.

We recognise that there is a need to support sons and daughters in foster families. Setting up 'support groups' can help by providing them with an opportunity to talk about their feelings and experiences with other children who know about foster care and know 'what it is like' to share your home and your parents in this way.

The event this week has given me the chance to thank and congratulate the children of foster carers in the Vale – and across Wales.

They are making such a difference to the lives of young people who are fostered, and as Minister

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

for Children I would like to thank Fostering Network Cymru for their pioneering work.

This is just one example of that work as they support foster carers, teachers and social workers to give them all a better understanding of how life experiences and being in care can impact on the lives of foster children and young people in Wales.

YOUTH WORK WEEK
The half-term week leads into Youth Work Week and I look forward to attending the Wick Youth Club event at the Sports Pavilion next Sunday, as well as supporting a number of events throughout Wales.

Youth Work Week helps us to recognise the inspiring work of youth workers who can have a significant impact on young people's lives. There are at least 20,000 youth workers in Wales and we are always seeking to recruit more with training opportunities provided.

We are promoting the role of youth work using 'Sam' as a role model through our youth forums, websites and youth

activities.

We heard more about this at the recent AGM of the Vale Youth Forum and it was good to learn about the Peered-Up Challenge! which is based at the Penarth Youth Project, but available throughout the Vale to encourage young people to get involved with their Peered-Up mentoring team.

The Vale Youth Forum is going from strength to strength with a new Youth Forum Coordinator being appointed and local youth forums developing such as the Gibbonsdown Youth Forum.

There will be information about developing a career in youth work as part of Youth Work Week and many opportunities to hear about the inspiring work of the youth service here in the Vale of Glamorgan.

This takes more on to another important role that we can play in inspiring and supporting young people and that is through volunteering to be a school governor.

We have over 23,000 governors in Wales and last week I opened the new offices for the organisation - Governors Wales - in Cardiff to serve governors across Wales.

As well as opening their new offices, I was pleased to launch two new Factfiles to give advice and guidance to governors on their valuable roles in supporting schools.

This came on a day when I tabled a new legislative competence order in the Assembly to transfer the power on school governance to Wales from Westminster, to give us more responsibility in this important area affecting the educational opportunities and well-being of our children and young people.

VALE WOMAN TO TACKLE ULTRA-ULTRA-MARATHON

A VALE woman will be flying the flag for Wales in the Adventure Racing World Championship in Portugal.

Maria Leijerstam will be off to Portugal in November, sponsored by Odlo UK, to race along the 900k non-stop route by foot, bike and kayak.

She told The GEM: "The competition will be

fierce, with 55 of the best teams from around the globe all competing for the title of Adventure Racing World Champions. New Zealand are the current holders of the title."

She continued: "The championships are not just a test of physical strength and endurance, it is also about skill and tactical ability. We have to be able to run for 30 hours at a time, followed by cycling over moun-



tains for 150k and then don our inline skates, climb up ropes and make some very tactical decisions with regards to navigation and route

LEFT: Maria Leijerstam.

choice."

Maria will be the only Welsh woman to compete in this championship, and the team of four have been training weekly in the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains.

She said: "We have decided on a strategy of one hour's sleep per 24 throughout the race. It is a very fine balance between pushing on through sleep deprivation and taking a power nap, as the time lost sleeping may equate to faster speed in the long term. It's a real tactical game."

Adventure Racing is based on the three sports of running, kayaking, and mountain biking but can involve up to 10 different sports.

Maria, from Bonvilston, a sports consultant and personal trainer, has already completed the toughest footrace on earth when she ran six marathons in seven days across the Sahara desert. (Marathon des Sables). She has also been selected to represent the UK in the G4 Land Rover Challenge.

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SCHOOL TEAMS EXCEL IN SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

RIGHT:
Girls B
team:
(Amy
Taylor,
Amy
Oliver,
Amy
Wallis
and
Manon
Thomas).



FOLLOWING their fine performance in the South Wales Artificial Ski Championships that took place at Cardiff Ski Club back in May, Cowbridge Comprehensive School qualified six teams (three girls and three boys teams) to race in the Welsh Schools Artificial Ski Championships that was held on Sunday, October 11 at Llangrannog.

The Cowbridge contingent consisted of a range of abilities; some very experienced skiers and some pupils who were enjoying their first-ever competitive ski race for the school.

Nonetheless, both the girls and boys teams were under pressure to retain the title from last year and, despite the horrendous weather conditions in Llangrannog, which left visibility on the slope extremely poor, the pupils certainly did not disappoint!

The order of races was altered slightly because of the heavy rain, with the primary schools opening the competition, followed by two consecutive runs from the girls, and finally two consecutive runs from the boys.

Alice Hales in year-13 got Cowbridge's campaign off to a flying start, recording an outstanding time of 9.01secs in her first run and 9.0secs dead in her second run, which proved to be the fastest girls' time of the day.

This was quickly followed by Sarah Williams in year-11 who produced an impressive time of 9.41secs in her first run and 9.46secs in her second run, putting Cowbridge girls A team in strong contention. The other girls quickly responded to the high standards set by Alice and Sarah and produced an excellent set of times:

	Run 1	Run 2
Alice Hales	9.01	9.00
Sarah Williams	9.41	9.46
Katie Howson	12.90	13.08
Hannah Taylor	13.25	13.21
Amy Taylor	12.93	12.89
Manon Thomas	13.83	13.51
Amy Oliver	13.97	13.83
Amy Wallis	14.26	13.59
Lowri Morgan	17.46	15.69
Ffion Morgan	17.21	16.99
Olivia Brown	17.87	16.53

The boys' races were equally exciting with Cowbridge's own Scott Sanger in year-13 and Sam Stephens in year-12 battling it out for first place in the individual competition.

Scott opened the competition with an incredible time of 8.65secs in his first run, which Sam responded to by shaving away 0.1 of a second with an excellent time of 8.64secs.

Both boys came out strong in their second run, but it was Sam who proved to have the edge on the day recording a time of 8.55secs (the fastest boys' time of the day) to Scott's time of 8.62secs.

Excellent individual results also put them in strong contention in the team competition and, as with the girls, the boys went from strength to strength and recorded a set of excellent times:

	Run 1	Run 2
Scott Sanger	8.65	8.62
Sam Stephens	8.64	8.55
George Spill	9.15	8.78
Will Tinkler	9.10	9.00
Matthew Goodlad	10.11	DSQ
Harry Hitchcock	9.88	9.97
Jamie Griffiths	10.56	10.57
Jack Phillips	12.07	11.40
Cameron Mears	13.57	13.34
Ieuan Morgan	13.17	13.18
Dave Howells	14.54	13.87

An excellent set of times saw Cowbridge pupils collecting the following individual medals:

Girls: Amy Oliver - 3rd in child 2 non-registered; Hannah Taylor - 2nd in child 2 non-registered; Manon Thomas - 3rd in junior 1 non-registered; Katie Howson - 2nd in junior 1 non-registered; Amy Taylor - 1st in junior 1 non-registered; Sarah

Williams - 1st registered skier in junior 1; Alice Hales - 1st registered skier in junior 2

Overall Girls Competition: Alice Hales - 1st; Sarah Williams - 2nd.

Boys: Harry Hitchcock - 2nd in child 2 non-registered; Jamie Griffiths - 3rd in junior 1 non-registered; Sam Stephens - 1st registered skier in junior 1 and 1st overall; Jack Phillips - 2nd in junior 2 non-registered; Scott Sanger - 1st registered skier in junior 2.

Overall Boys Competition: Sam Stephens - 1st; Scott Sanger - 2nd.

Special Recognition Awards: Best girl skier outside the Welsh squad - Sarah Williams; Best boy skier outside the Welsh squad - Will Tinkler.

In the team competitions, the pupils gained further honours and were successful in retaining both the girls and boys titles:

Girls A Team = 1st (Alice Hales, Sarah Williams, Katie Howson and Hannah Taylor); Girls B Team = 3rd (Amy Taylor, Amy Oliver, Amy Wallis and Manon Thomas); Girls C Team = 4th (Lowri Morgan, Ffion Morgan and Olivia Brown); Boys A team = 1st (Scott Sanger, Sam Stephens, George Spill and Will Tinkler); Boys B team = 4th (Matthew Goodlad, Harry Hitchcock, Jamie Griffiths and Jack Phillips); Boys C team = 7th (Ieuan Morgan, Cameron Mears and David Howells).

As a result, the Girls A, B and C teams and the Boys A and B teams have qualified for the British Schools Artificial Ski Championships which is to be held in Pontypool on Sunday, November 15. We are extremely grateful to Coyote of Cowbridge who will yet again be sponsoring the school teams in this event.

To have five teams qualify for a British final is an outstanding achievement. Through their hard work and dedication to the sport, the pupils are a credit to Cowbridge Comprehensive School, and we wish them luck in the British Championships.

Thanks yet again to the parents for their continued support (despite a very wet day!) and to Mr Walsh for giving up his Sunday to support the pupils and help navigate the roads of west Wales!

S Barry



Girls A team: 1st (Alice hales, Sarah Williams, Katie Howson and Hannah Taylor).



ABOVE: The successful boys team.

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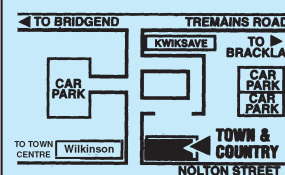
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NEWS FROM COWBRIDGE MALE VOICE CHOIR

Cowbridge choir hits the ground running

AFTER the August break, Cowbridge Male Voice Choir has made a busy start to its new concert season.

In September, the choir travelled to St Albans where it gave an excellent concert to a capacity audience of 400 on behalf of Christian Relief Uganda. This is a British-based charity which runs its own orphanages in Uganda, catering for some 500 orphans.

It was the choir's third visit to St Albans in a series of concerts that have raised more than £15,000 for this very deserving charity. The choir stayed overnight so, besides raising substantial charity funds, a good time was had by all!

Early October saw the choir singing in Christ Church, Radyr, in support of their bell tower fund.

This concert was arranged by Iona Jones, the choir's president, and her father Robin, the former BBC Wales announcer, in support of their local church. It was a beautiful late summer's evening, and Iona herself featured as soprano soloist, singing as always, absolutely magnificently, equally well



Musical director, Shelly Thomas-Brown acknowledges the plaudits of the audience at Bethel Baptist church.

accompanied by Janice Ball, who also happens to be the musical director of the Treorchy Male Voice Choir.

On Saturday, October 10, the choir sang at Wenvoe Church at the wedding of BBC Wales reporter Nicola Smith to George Oliver. The choir are in frequent demand for local weddings and usually sing three or four pieces before the service, several pieces during the signing of the register and provide an impressive boost to the

congregational singing, which is always commented upon enthusiastically, especially when one side of the partnership comes from England or abroad. The concert secretary, Alan Wilson, is always willing to take bookings on 01446 773422!

On Saturday, October 17, the beautiful modern Bethel Baptist Chapel in Pontyclun, with its excellent acoustics, resounded to one of the best concerts the choir has ever given.

The soloist on this occasion was Menna Cazel Davies, who is currently studying at the London Guildhall College of Musical and Drama. She last performed, most generously, free-of-charge for the choir at the second 'Gala Concert for Saul' in Cowbridge Leisure Centre last December, and in the last 18 months she has won major prizes at both the National and Llangollen International Eisteddfodau.

The concert was in support of the local Parkinson's Disease Society.

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir's next local concert will take place on Friday, November 27 at 7.30pm in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, as part of the Christmas Tree Festival. The soprano soloist will be Daisy Evans – yet another young and extremely talented local soprano (from Sigginstone) who is also studying at the Guildhall in London.

Daisy last appeared locally in Holy Cross in the summer with three of her fellow students at an excellently supported and appreciated concert to raise funds for her musical education.

Barry Comprehensive School opens its doors

PUPILS from all the local primary schools, along with parents, families and friends attended Barry Comprehensive School's open evening recently.

All departments at the school made the visitors feel welcome with an exciting programme of lessons, workshops, experiments and presentations.

Many pupils volunteered their time to talk to the visitors about their experiences at the school as well as to take part in the various activities designed to showcase its many attractions to potential pupils and their parents.



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The art department galleries attracted many visitors.

'Wonderful prize!'

I ENTERED your competition recently to win dinner for four at the Loch Fyne restaurant and was very, very thrilled when I won!

Even better for me, just as I heard, it was one of the rare weekends when at least two of my lads were home at the same time and will certainly be the last occasion until after Christmas, so it really meant a lot when Loch Fyne agreed to let me take up the prize immediately.

We had a terrific evening and all of us thoroughly enjoyed our dinner, treating ourselves to items on the menu we probably wouldn't have had the chance to try otherwise.

Part of my job is to organise competitions for a magazine I work for and I am always extolling the readers that they can't win if they don't enter. Now I find this is absolutely true!

Thank you so much for organising and thank you to everyone at Loch Fyne for such a wonderful time.

Judi Mendelssohn, Cowbridge



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Group will monitor 'hate crime' in Vale



Graham Bath, Vice-Chairperson, PC Brian Bedford and David Lloyd, chairperson of the Vale Community Cohesion Group, are pictured at a recent meeting at the headquarters of Safer Vale.

A LOCAL volunteer group is to take on an extra task – monitoring how the police deal with 'hate crime'.

The Vale of Glamorgan Community Cohesion Group, which is a partnership between the local police, other agencies and members of the community, was originally formed to act as a scrutiny panel, examining the way that the police conducted themselves when policing minority groups.

The group's remit has now been expanded for the police to provide information and advice in relation to 'hate crime'.

Volunteer members of the group serve for a period of two years and they act as the 'eyes and ears' of their communities, often enquiring about operational and tactical policing issues.

Under the chairmanship of Mr David Lloyd, the group is provided with information concerning all the incidents involving minority communities living, working or just visiting the Vale.

This information,

which has been screened to protect the identities of the victims, is then considered by the panel to allow them to question the police regarding their actions and progress.

Usually present will be a representative from the Crown Prosecution Service, who will provide the Court results and any charging decisions made.

A police officer from the Minorities Support Unit, who has specialist skills and duties when dealing with victims of certain minority groups, will also be available.

PC Brian Bedford, the Vale's Hate Crime officer, said: "We are very fortunate that reported hate crime remains very low in the Vale."

"However, we remain vigilant to the potential threat."

The group meets on a quarterly basis. Anyone interested in finding out more about its work can contact PC Bedford on 01446 450216 at the Safer Vale Partnership in Barry.

How to make sense of all the information on the 'net.. Penarth Computer Club Notes: Online dictionaries

ARTHUR C CLARKE once said that getting information from the internet is like trying to take a glass of water from Niagara Falls; there is just so much information that you can be overwhelmed by it... I know.

A little while ago, I was considering a planning use in response to a cry for help from someone who was baffled by the forms.

My first reaction was to check to see if planning permission for a change of use really was needed as I thought it should not be. The details are not important, but the process was interesting.

The planners said an application was required and quoted a relevant document. From the internet, I was able to download a copy of the document to check. The type of building concerned was not mentioned in the document, so I spoke to the planners for clarification.

I was referred to a further document that they use for guidance, held by the central library.

The central library computer said no; they do not hold a copy, but one was available at the National Library in Aberystwyth. About half an hour later, they rang me back to say that they had located a copy in the Cardiff University Library.

That being much closer, I went to look at the document, grateful that their computer had saved me a long trip or a long wait for the book to be

sent to Cardiff.

Two facts came to light. The referred document had been superseded by a later edition that was three times as long. The use class, of building under consideration was quoted as 'Sui Generis' (as opposed to A, B, C, or D). The note about this Latin phrase in the foreword to the volume described the scope of it, but not what it actually meant.

To be able to develop my argument, I needed to be certain that I understood what the phrase meant in the context of its use. Back to computers and the internet.

Typing it into Google brought up 67,500 references. The first one was for a leading GRP (glass reinforced plastics) company. Third was a beauty salon; fourth was a furniture company rapidly followed by several more varieties of company and consultants.

This was Arthur C Clarke's Niagara. The glass of water was the second entry that said that in the context of English law it means 'unique'.

To confirm this I went to onelook.com and tried again. In a flash, the site provided 23 dictionary sources of definition. A browse through several of them provided assorted versions of Latin for 'of its own kind'; hence, whatever is absolutely unique or distinctive about something.

In the context of planning (use classes, that require permission) there were several entries indicating that it meant 'in a class of its own'. That seemed more appropriate. I also liked 'unique' in its characteristics'.

More generally it means – in its own cate-

gory, in its own group, of its own character, of its own class, of its own classification, of its own denomination, of its own designation, of its own genre, of its own kind, of its own nature, of its own type, of its own variety, peculiar <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/peculiar>, special <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/special>, the only one of its kind, unique <http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/unique>. Take your pick!

The planning argument is yet to be presented, but I have enjoyed the chase so far and learned a new phrase into the bargain.

As for the companies and consultants, I thought that they might have had a classical education to come up with the Latin words, but online I put 'unique' into a thesaurus and it quickly found 'sui generis' for me; so perhaps not.

That leaves me with admiration for 'Sui Generis'; an Argentine rock band from the 1970s who could not have had a computer!

Our next meeting will be on November 10 (7.30pm for 8.00pm in All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth).

Rhona will be showing how to create your personal stationery.

Visitors and new members are welcome. For more information telephone 029 2070 8439.

HOWARD DESMOND (Chairman)

Vale Marketing Group wins tourism award



Photo MEI LEWIS

DURING an evening hosted by television presenter, Sara Edwards, the South Wales Business awards were announced and the Vale Marketing Group was declared winner of one of the most prestigious awards.

The group won the South Wales Retail and Tourism Business of the Year award.

Mandy Davies, chair of the Vale

Marketing Group, thanked the committee and all the members for their support, enthusiasm and hard work over the last seven years; with a special thank you to committee member Clare Sheehy, of Town and Country Hotels, who made the nomination.

Mandy said: "This is a great accolade which reflects all the hard work that has gone into making the VMG an invaluable voice for tourism in the Vale of Glamorgan."

Spooky event in Barry

CASTLELAND Community Centre is holding a scary Halloween event tomorrow night (October 30) for local children.

The fun runs from 6.30pm to 8.30pm and there's free food, 'What's in the Box?' a haunted house special, an optional fancy dress competition and a pumpkin contest too.

For further information, the Children and Young People in the Community Project can be contacted on 01446 403549.

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AUTUMN FAIR

THERE will be an autumn fair in the Paget Rooms, Penarth, from 10.15am-11.45am on Saturday, November 7, in aid of Cancer Research UK Cymru.

Admission is 50p, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. There will be stalls of cakes, gifts, Christmas cards and wrapping paper, savouries, preserves, tombola and white elephant.

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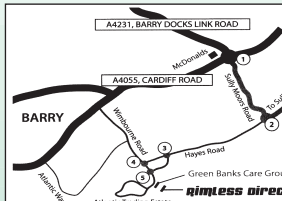
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(CONDITIONS APPLY)

Vale in Bloom winners are honoured



ABOVE:
Arthur O'Leary, of the Glenbrook Inn, winner of the Barry and overall Vale commercial categories, with Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams.

THE organisers of the Vale in Bloom competition have revealed that the event is attracting more new faces among residents and businesses.

Organised annually by the Vale Council, the event comprises competitions for Barry, Penarth and the rural villages, with the best being judged against each other to determine overall Vale in Bloom winners.

The winner of the overall (and Barry) front garden awards for the second successive year was Norah Bawn, of Brookfield Avenue, who has enjoyed much success in the competition over a number of years.

A double success in consecutive years was also recorded by the Glenbrook Inn, with a colourful and welcoming display in the Vale and Barry commercial categories; and by Y Bont Faen (Cowbridge) in the Vale and villages schools categories.

In Barry, newcomer Wayne Pitman (Newgate Close) won the hanging basket category with an excellent display, and Peggy Hughes (Jenner Road) repeated last year's success for the best entry from a disabled gardener.

In Penarth, there was once again a large number of high quality entries. Dennis and Ann Lush



ABOVE:
Norah Bawn, winner of the overall Vale and Barry front garden categories.

(Tudor Close) continued their winning ways in the front garden category and achieved the double with their attractive hanging basket display.

Lacey Beth Lloyd (St David's Crescent) went one better than last year to win the children's category and W Smith (Catherine Meazey Flats, Queens Road) improved on a third spot in 2008 to be crowned best disabled gardener.

The Marie Curie Hospice and Cogan nursery repeated their 2008



Vale of Glamorgan Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams with overall Vale in Bloom winners - Arthur O'Leary (Glenbrook Inn, Barry; commercial), Norah Bawn (Brookfield Avenue, Barry; front garden) and pupils of Y Bont Faen Primary, Cowbridge (schools).

successes in the residential home/sheltered housing and schools categories, the latter sharing top spot this year with near neighbours Cogan primary.

In the villages competition, Lily Matthews, of Church Row, Pendoylan, produced the best front garden, with close neighbour Mr I Morrison securing third spot. New

entrant Longmeadow Court (Cowbridge) finished top in the residential home and sheltered housing category.

RESULTS

Barry: Front garden: 1 Mrs N Bawn, Brookfield Avenue; 2 Mr D Bryant, Aneurin Road; 3 (joint), Mr and Mrs J Nicholls, Myrtle Grove, and Mrs T Williams, The Parade. Hanging basket: 1 Mr

W Pitman, Newgate Close; 2 Mrs Bawn; 3 Mrs S Clements, Beverley Street.

Disabled gardener: 1 Mrs P M Hughes, Jenner Road; 2 Mr R Darer, Glamor Crescent; 3 Valeplus, High Street.

Residential home/sheltered accommodation: 1 Ms A Gore, College Fields Nursing Home, College Fields Close; 2 Mr and Mrs Hogg, Brecon Court.

Commercial: 1 The Glenbrook Inn, Dobbins

Road.

Penarth: Front garden: 1 Mr D and Mrs A Lush, Tudor Close; 2 Mr D Jones, Summerland Crescent; 3 Mrs R Philpot, Uppercliff Close.

Hanging basket: 1 Mr and Mrs Lush; 2 Mrs A Goddard, Cawnpore Street; 3 Mrs Philpot.

Disabled gardener: 1 Mr W Smith, Catherine Meazey Flats, Queens Road; 2 (joint), Mrs M James, Grove Road, Llandow.

Children: 1 Lacey Beth Lloyd, St David's Crescent; 2 (joint), Ellie Kihlberg, Molly Parker and Liam Parker, Cawnpore Street.

Residential home/sheltered accommodation: 1 Marie Curie Hospice, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road; 2 Ty Dewi Sant Residential Home, Myrtle Close; 3 Catherine Meazey Flats.

Schools: 1 (joint), Cogan Nursery, Cawnpore Street, and Cogan Primary, Pill Street.

Villages: Front garden: 1 Mrs L Matthews, Church Row, Pendoylan; 2 Mrs S M Davies, Nant Isaf, Wenvoe; 3 (joint), Mr I Morrison, Church



ABOVE:
Peggy Hughes, winner of the best disabled gardener category in Barry.

Row, Pendoylan, and Mrs M James, Grove Road, Llandow.

Commercial: 1 Longmeadow Court, Druids Green, Cowbridge.

Schools: 1 Y Bont Faen Primary, Borough Close, Cowbridge

Overall winners: Front garden: Mrs Bawn.

Commercial: The Glenbrook Inn.

Schools: Y Bont Faen.



Dennis and Ann Lush, winners of the front garden category in Penarth

LEFT: Pupils from Y Bont Faen Primary, Cowbridge, winners of the Vale villages and overall Vale in Bloom schools categories with Vale of Glamorgan Council leader Coun Gordon Kemp.



ABOVE:

Representatives of the Castle Avenue Day Centre, who were joint second in the disabled gardener category in Penarth, with Vale of Glamorgan Council leader Coun Gordon Kemp.



Liam and Molly Parker, runners-up in the Penarth children's category.



ABOVE: Representatives of the College Fields Nursing Home, winners of the residential home/sheltered accommodation category in Barry.



ABOVE:
Vale council cabinet member for leisure and tourism Coun Anthony Ernest presents the Robert and Joan Ernest Trophy for the best entry in the Penarth Seafront Conservation Area to Rita Philpot, of Uppercliff Close.

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STAND BY FOR THE 36TH ROTARY FIREWORKS FIESTA!

YET again we are in for an exceptional night of fun and fireworks as the Barry Rotary Club stage their 36th Fireworks Fiesta on November 5!

The annual event, which has enthralled so many over the years, is once again being staged on Barry Island. This year, a new company,

Pendragon, have been contracted to arrange the display, and promise an even more spectacular event.

Pendragon are based in Cwmbran and have a history of providing fireworks displays on memorable occasions. In 2008, they won the Twelfth British Firework Championships.

So why don't you come along to what promises to be a great evening of fun, fireworks, and music? The fireworks start at 7.45pm, but to avoid the last-minute rush, Barry Rotary Club suggest arriving as early as 6pm - there will be a fairground to enjoy before the main event.

As usual, there will be novelty stalls and bucket collections. All the proceeds go towards pay-

ing for the event itself, and supporting the charitable works that Rotary does in and outside the community. So please be generous.

The club is again grateful to sponsors without whom the display would not be possible: the Vale and Town Councils, ABP, Centrica, and the Barry Island traders.

Once more, the club's sincere apologies go to the residents of Barry Island for the inconvenience caused during the short road closure period (5.30pm-9.30pm) but most should be able to gain access to their homes without too much inconvenience.

DON CARSLLEY
(president of Barry Rotary Club)

'Look after the environment this Bonfire Night' says agency

part of the celebrations, are safe.

Environment Agency Wales area manager for the south-west, Steve Brown, said: "The message is simple; if you're not sure if something is safe to burn, don't put it on your bonfire."

Burning things like mattresses, tyres and plastics produces toxic smoke which can harm the environment and put people nearby at risk.

In the run-up to Guy Fawkes Night, the agency is asking people to make sure materials for burning, as

"They are much safer and tend to have less impact on overall air quality and the environment than a number of small scale bonfires, so it's worth seeking these out in your area."

You can help your environment by reporting any bonfires being built containing anything other than vegetation and clean wood

to the Environment Agency, via its 24-hour freephone number 0800 80 70 60.

The hotline operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Calls are free from a landline and mobiles are charged at their normal network rate. Information is treated in the strictest confidence.

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Councillor Howard Hamilton,
the Mayor of Barry,
and members of the Council
wish the
Barry Rotary Firework Display
a very successful and safe evening

Rotary Club of Barry Annual Fireworks
Barry Island - November 5th



Superb Fireworks Synchronised to Music
Starts at 7.45 PM

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL Temporary Road Closure Order, Section 16a, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 BARRY ISLAND - FIREWORKS 5th November 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an Order under Section 16A, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours on the day and date specified in column 1 of the schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedules will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, do HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulations shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 1 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services and Coastguard vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of schedule 1.

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 2 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Residents', Public Service and Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of schedule 2. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine now exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Thursday 5th November 2009	Paget Road, between Harbour Road and its cul de sac end near the fireguard station including the un-named section of road to the side of No 19 Paget Road (excluding the lane). Station Approach Road throughout the length including its gyratory of the roundabout at Whites Corner. Breaksea Drive from its western junction with Adar-y-Mor to its junction with Station Approach Road. Friars Road between its junction with Station Approach Road and Paget Road.	5.30pm-9.30pm

Schedule 2

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Thursday 5th November 2009	Westward Rise, Porth-Y-Castell, Bron A Welon, Tan-Y-Fron, Min-Y-Mor, Pen-Y-Bryn, Marine Drive, Trem-Y-Don, Swyn-Y-Mor, Cliff Wood View and Bull Cliff Walk.	5.00pm-8.30pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.
Dated this 29th day of October 2009.

M Punter,
Head of Visible Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA





Barry College - Celebrating half a century at the heart of the Vale.

From September 2009 Barry College is celebrating 50 years of its life and work at the heart of the community in the Vale. Each month in the Gem, Barry College will be looking back over the last 50 years – with memories and photographs from past students, staff and local residents. A dedicated website www.barry.ac.uk/50 includes even more. To contribute memories, photographs or register as a past student or staff member, go to the website or contact us email: 50years@barry.ac.uk or tel: 01446 725015



"I remember..."

Jack Barlow, Barry College Registrar from 1959 to 1974, pictured left.

This memory comes from Jack Barlow, one of the first members of Barry College staff. Jack Barlow started working for Barry College 50 years ago, back in 1959 when it opened its doors for the first time. Looking through his collection of photographs and other mementos it's clear to see the change that half a century has had on the College – staff, students and buildings!

Jack remembers the College in 1959, when he was one of only nine members of staff – quite a difference in work force compared to the 451 members of staff currently employed. "I worked at Barry College for 15 years, from 1959 to 1974 as College Registrar. There was an excellent reaction to the opening of the College back then as before this local people had to travel to Cardiff or Bridgend to study."

Jack talks fondly of his time working at Barry College. He recalls the very beginning, the hard work that was involved in establishing the College, the curriculum and recruiting the first cohort of students. "When my colleagues and I first started working at the College, we used to go to the Principal's house every Sunday morning. We wanted to work together to ensure the College was the best it could be. We worked from his front room to apply to the Further Education Council to run courses and then we drew up the first College prospectus. The Principal and I delivered them to post offices, shops and other public places throughout the Vale of Glamorgan. That's how we recruited our first students. They mainly studied commerce short-hand and typing."

Jack returned to Barry College a few years ago – but this time as a student, "I studied the 10 week Computers for the Terrified course. It was the first time I have studied a course at the College. It is certainly a different environment to how I remember it all those years ago!"



The first 9 members of staff at Barry College
J H Pearce, K W Oaten, M J Bound, J Thomas
S Derbyshire, J G Cooper, A J James (Principal) J B Barlow, B M Dibble



The intake of students at Barry College (Sept 1960)

**Do you have a special memory or story about Barry College?
Do you have any photographs of Barry College taken over the years?**

Whether a past student, member of staff, friend of the College or local resident – we all share in the College's heritage.

All those that contribute photographs or written memories will receive a thank you letter and commemorative gift. The website www.barry.ac.uk/50 also includes details of planned activities and events through the academic year to allow all who wish to participate in celebrations the opportunity to do so.

** Barry College will assume the consent of all those that appear in any photographs and written statements contributed relating to the college and its 50th celebrations, for use on the Barry College website, marketing materials and related media coverage. By contributing images/statements, you are agreeing to grant Barry College a royalty free licence to publish, edit and use such materials for the purposes stated above.

YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG NEWS

Tom makes his debut for Wales

CONGRATULATIONS to year-12 pupil and rising snooker star, Tom Vedmore, who recently represented Wales at under-16 at the Home Nations event at Pontins, Prestatyn, north Wales.

Wales under-16s finished a creditable second behind a very strong England team. In the second match, Tom Vedmore was Wales' saviour. With all the pressure on his shoulders, Tom, in his first home international event, produced some superb match play snooker to secure a 10-8 win.

Tom has been playing snooker for five years and is coached by former professional Anthony Davies. His dedication and talent stand him in good stead for future success.



LEFT: Tom Vedmore, who recently represented Wales at a Home Nations event.

Maths challenge.

Riding high on the top of the league
BRO Morgannwg's first senior rugby team are still unbeaten in the Saturday league, some feat considering they are playing in this competition for the first time.

Following on from their opening defeat of Cowbridge, they have recorded excellent victories against Llanhari (29-10) and Brynteg (13-7).

Following a short break, they are now keen to re-start after the half-term break and cement their place at the top of the league.

Other teams have been successful recently – teams from year-9, 10 and 11 all reached the final of the Vale Cup in their respective year groups.

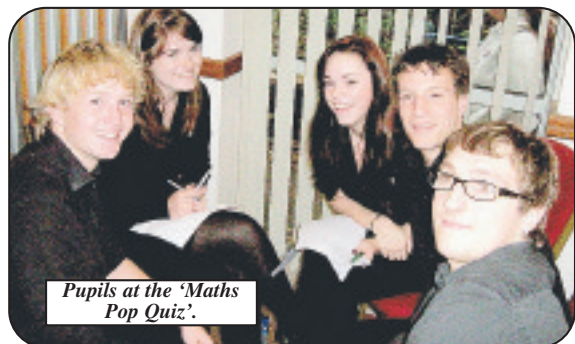
Year-9 and 10 lost to Cowbridge, but the year-11 team beat Cowbridge by 50-0. Many of the year-11 players represent the Cardiff Blues under-16 squad. Tom Perry, Richard Pilcher and Zak Deere, play for the first team squad, whereas Trianan and Eiman Scoot and Joel Beavis are members of the under-16 development squad. Cory Allen, another member of the Bro Morgannwg senior rugby team is making very good progress in the ranks of the Blues under-18s.

Future chef
EARLIER this month, 10 pupils at Ysgol Bro Morgannwg took part in a 'cook-off' to determine who should go forward to the next round of the 'Future Chef' competition to be held at Barry College on November 10.

Each contestant worked against the clock to produce and serve a tasty and well-presented main course. Zoe Kelland, the winner, impressed the judges with her rendition of sweet and sour chicken served with rice and garnished with spring onion batons.

The 'Future Chef' competition is a four-stage nationwide culinary programme for young people between the ages of 12-16. Its aims are to inspire them to explore food as a life skill, to help develop culinary talent and inform them about entry routes into the hospitality industry.

Good luck Zoe!



Pupils at the 'Maths Pop Quiz'.

THIS MR FOX MAKES FOR A TRULY FANTASTIC FILM!

NOW, more than ever, genuine auteurs truly stand out in the somewhat creatively limited current world of cinema.

The likes of Paul Thomas Anderson have shown that cinema can be much more than simply rehashing and remaking, and another director that fits that bracket is Wes Anderson (no relation).

The director has, since his debut with *Bottle Rocket* 13 years ago, crafted films that exist seemingly in their own universe; his world of dysfunctional families and people being highly regarded, if not hugely commercial.

However, Anderson's latest sees him take on the world of Roald Dahl with *Fantastic Mr Fox*. The title character is voiced by George Clooney, who moves his family (consisting of wife Mrs Fox (Meryl Streep), son Ash (Jason Schwartzman) and nephew Kristofferson (Eric Anderson)) into a new tree and dreams of recapturing his youth by

stealing from the nastiest farmers in the valley, Boggis, Bunce and Bean.

When the farmers grow tired of Mr Fox's thieving ways, they endeavour to find him and kill him, threatening the lives of all the animals that live around them.

With his back to the wall, Mr Fox decides the best form of action is reaction...

Given the huge technological leaps made in animation, and you need only see Pixar's *Up* to marvel at how wonderful animation work has become, it is more than a little heartening to see that the old methods can still be used.

Fantastic Mr Fox is a stop-motion film, where puppets are moved ever so slightly from frame to frame, similar to the methods used to make the *Wallace and Gromit* adventures.

There is no plasticine on show here, however, Wes Anderson preferring to use crafted figures. The overall effect is that of a film that is a warm and fuzzy and, though child-friendly, is distinctly Anderson-esque.

As well as directing,

Anderson also co-wrote the screenplay with Noah Baumbach, and the pair have put their own unmistakable spin on Roald Dahl's beloved story, making nips and tucks here and there but, by and large, retaining the subtly dark humour and character of the original story.

Anderson and Baumbach make a notable addition with the introduction of the character of Kristofferson, and how that plays will depend on how strong your love of the original story is.

For me, I found it an addition that was perfectly in keeping with the familial issues that form the cornerstone of the work of both screenwriters and not too jarring at all, giving an extra dynamic to the Fox family.

The script takes Dahl's twisted English countryside and adds a degree of bohemian America flavouring, characters shopping at the 'Five and Dime' and bringing in American colloquialisms that again stick out from the original but play well within the context of the film.

What is most refreshing is the way Anderson hasn't compromised his working methods to make the film more 'child-friendly', the relationship between Mr Fox and his son, to a degree,

as fractured as that of the Tenenbaum children with their father in *The Royal Tenenbaums*, or of the Whitman brothers in *The Darjeeling Limited*.

It makes for a beguiling, but wholly satisfying marriage, Anderson paying as much attention to the disconnect of the family as the rest of the story.

Visually, the film retains his identity, bright colour palettes and the use of wonderfully constructed shots giving the film a beautiful autumnal glow that is also reflected in the characters – the film looking gorgeously stylish, the slight imperfections of the stop-motion animation lending a charm to the visuals.

Using his usual troupe of actors, the vocal cast are all very good; Clooney conveys wonderfully the charm and laconic carefree attitude of the title character, while Jason Schwartzman gives Ash a pluck and desire that works well.

With the likes of Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, and a superb Willem Dafoe all lending their tonsils, the cast is wonderfully strong, even though Meryl Streep is somewhat sidelined as Mrs Fox and is given little to do.

While thoroughly charming, there are a few little gripes; while

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

only 87 minutes long, the pace does slacken somewhat in the middle section, while the film feels a little too slight, coming across a bit more like a Sunday evening television special than a film.

Yet, ultimately, the film's charm is difficult to resist, and while it may not engage younger audience members as much as the latest CGI animation film, it's hard to argue with the end results – this *Mr Fox* certainly is fantastic!

VERDICT – A visually gorgeous and entertaining film, *Fantastic Mr Fox* lives up to its billing. The vocal cast offer up strong turns, and, as a Wes Anderson film for kids, there is more than enough here to keep both young and old engaged throughout. *Recommended.*

Local star puts his stamp on promotion

PARALYMPICAN javelin thrower Nathan Stephens from Barry is backing Royal Mail as a winner with its latest set of commemorative stamps promoting the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2010.

Royal Mail has commissioned some of Britain's most exciting artists and illustrators to create three sets of stamps, to be issued in the run up to London 2012 Olympic Games, and Nathan was only too happy to throw himself into promoting the stamps in Wales.

The first set of three were issued this week and Royal Mail caught up with Nathan, 21, at the training ground at the National Indoor Athletic Centre in Cardiff.

Nathan, originally from Bridgend, and now working as a sports coach at UWIC, Cardiff, said: "I am hoping to compete in the 2012 Paralympics and these brilliant stamps will help draw attention to the Games as they come closer.

"I am hoping I will be competing and I really enjoyed taking part in the Summer Olympics this year in Beijing."

He was placed fourth in the javelin, eighth in the shot-put and 11th in the discus. Previously,

he competed in the Winter Olympics in Turin in 2006 where he joined the Paralympics ice hockey team and he has also acted as a referee for the new Paralympics game of Boccia, featured on the Olympic stamps.

For Nathan, being involved in sport has provided him with a real focus in life after losing both his legs in a train accident when he was just nine years old.

"I played rugby and football before the accident and so I turned to sport again after it happened to give me a focal point to concentrate on and I am pleased with my success in the Paralympics events."

A total of 30 1st Class stamps will be issued in the Olympic and Paralympics Games series.

Royal Mail is working with illustrators and fine artists to create the stamps which will highlight both the sporting and cultural significance of this incredible event.

Each stamp will champion an Olympic or Paralympics sport and they will be issued in three sets in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Among the sports featured on the first set of stamps is diving, with a distinctive illustration by the leading contemporary artist Julian Opie, alongside the lesser known Paralympics sport of boccia.

The trials of child contact post separation

KATIE McCOLGAN of Berry Smith Solicitors writes on how to help children get through divorce or separation.

SADLY, given the very high level of divorce and separation in this country, many parents are faced with the trauma and stress of not only losing their partner, but day-to-day contact with their beloved children, and this can be a devastating blow, both to the parent losing out, and the children involved.

In 2004, of the 13.1 million families with dependent children in Wales and England, 24 per cent of these families were lone parents, with only two per cent being lone fathers.

Further, in the latest government research about contact difficulties, over 25 per cent of children from parents who separated over three years ago, no longer have any contact with the non-resident parent.

Is this because the father, simply becomes too despondent with the problems which beset him in going through the court system, where the mother is negative and

uncooperative?

This is however, bad news indeed for children, since the latest research from the University College of Wales, Cardiff has confirmed that the quality of relations between separating parents directly affects children's long-term emotional, behavioural and academic development.

Under the latest legal changes implemented in December last year, contact orders now automatically carry a warning notice and should, therefore, be easier to enforce.

In addition, there are more extended enforcement options available including fines, parenting courses, community service etc. However, it is usually better to try and cooperate for the sake of the children, rather than look for punitive remedies.

In an ideal world, children should be able to enjoy quality time with each of their parents, but if this is proving impossible in your case, then you should seek the help of a family lawyer, preferably a member of Resolution. This group of family

lawyers are specially trained to try and reach an amicable agreement on your behalf and can assist you in giving advice, information and support in trying to reach arrangements with a former partner. Where this is not possible, they will then assist with processing the matter through the courts.

However, the most practical advice I can give in dealing with contact arrangements is:

- Do not be late.
- Always be courteous, even in difficult and trying circumstances.
- Ensure that you are sharing the financial responsibility of your child's upbringing on a fair, regular and consistent basis.
- Do not cancel arrangements at the last minute.
- Make the effort to spend quality time with the child rather than for example, taking them to do the food shopping.
- Never talk negatively about your former partner in front of the children.

If adhered to, it takes a hard parent not to eventually start to cooperate.



GEM CHRISTMAS PARTY GUIDE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



TIPS ON HOW TO PARTY LIKE A LADY ...AND KEEP YOUR DIGNITY INTACT!

The Old Post Christmas Party Menu

Starter

Homemade leek and potato soup
Served with crusty bread & butter
Chicken and white wine pate
Served with autumn fruit chutney & crusty bread & butter

Filo wrapped torpedo prawns
Served with mixed leaves and sweet chilli dip
Herb crusted mushrooms with garlic butter
Served with crusty bread & butter

Main course

Traditional roast turkey
Served with pigs in blankets and sage and onion stuffing

Roast topside of beef
Served with Yorkshire pudding and gravy

Baked salmon
Served in white wine and mushroom sauce

Slow roasted aubergine
Stuffed with tomato and mince ragout and goat's cheese

All of the above are served with roast potatoes, new potatoes and seasonal vegetables

New Manager,

New Chefs,

New Old Post!

Chocolate fondant
with white chocolate and cherries

Lemon Parfait
Clotted cream cheesecake
with mulled wine berries

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Avoid embarrassing antics and party with sophistication and decorum this year. Sarah Tomczak, author of *L Is For Lady*, guides you through the modern minefield of party etiquette so you can survive the season with your dignity intact.

Lily Allen, Britney Spears and Lindsay Lohan, take note. The art of being a lady can produce great results for your party credentials and up your invite count this Christmas, according to Tomczak.

She explains: "Behaving like a lady can ensure you a place on every party guest list, make you the most popular girl in the office and yes, even help you pro-

by **LISA HAYNES**

ure the man of your dreams..

"Social graces not only make the world a much more pleasant place, but they make you a much more pleasant person."

Being a lady does not mean you have to sit at home, take up needlecraft and listen to classical music. Put your glad rags on and hit the town with a new, elegant mindset.

Tomczak says: "A little attention to such things as table manners and party-guest decorum might seem old-fashioned, but it will pay off many times over."

In her book, Tomczak guides you through the modern minefield of partying like a lady and avoiding those social faux pas that leave you cringing the morning after the night before.

PERFECT GUEST ETIQUETTE

Tomczak gives her top 10 tips for sailing through the most tricky function:

- Reply to an invitation promptly.
- Arrive around 15 minutes after the 'start' time.

• Bring the hostess a gift as well as something to drink.

• Make an effort to socialise with people new to you.

(CONTINUED ON
PAGE 19)

Coast to Coast Tapas and Wine Bar



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Christmas at The Mount Sorrel

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Saturday 19th, Monday 21st &
Tuesday 22nd December

MENU CHOICES

Chicken & Cranberry Terrine
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Roast Turkey Crown
Roast Leg of Welsh Lamb and Mint Sauce
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White Wine & Chive Sauce
Brie & Beetroot Tart

Selection of Vegetables

Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce
Cranberry & Orange Brulee Cheesecake

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Festive Evening

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS
AND PARTY HATS

TOMATO & BASIL SOUP

MILK BOAT

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BREADED MUSHROOMS

ROAST GLAMORGAN TURKEY

CARVED WELSH BEEF

SALMON FILLET

GAMMON STEAK & PINEAPPLE

CHOICE OF VEGETARIAN DISH

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GEM CHRISTMAS PARTY GUIDE

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

HOW TO AVOID EMBARRASSING ANTICS AT YOUR CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

• Help create a party atmosphere with jokes and anecdotes you know everyone will enjoy.

• Offer your services to the host, whether it be passing around canapés, or topping up glasses.

• Listen to the host's requests – head to the dining room when she requests, or hit the dance floor so others will follow suit.

• Don't flirt inappropriately.

• Don't smoke in the house or drink red wine near pale-coloured furnishings.

• Judge when the party is winding down and make a move to leave – try not to be the first or last to head home.

KEEP LOOKING SMART...

Tomczak reveals how to deal with life's dinner dilemmas.

• **COMPLICATED CANAPÉS** – "Try to eat a canapé in one bite," she advises. "Decline anything that looks too bulky – an overstuffed mouth is not ladylike.

Avoid anything that leaves you with something to hold, like a king prawn, or chicken skewer."

• **OLIVE OOPSIES** – "Beware of stones," warns Tomczak. "If your olive contains one and there are no receptacles provided for the pits, bring a napkin up to your mouth and discreetly spit the stone into it."

• **SLOPPY SOUP** – "Spoon your soup by scooping away from you, rather than towards you," Tomczak says. "Never put your entire spoon into your mouth – and never attempt to eat soup when wearing white."

• **THE AFTERMATH** – Food stuck in your teeth? Combat the offending article in a ladylike manner. The Tomczak solution is thus: "If you can sense an offending article in your teeth, the best thing to do is to excuse yourself from the table and remove the dental deviant in the privacy of the bathroom."

• **CONVERSATION CLANGERS** – When the

wine is flowing, party guests can easily drop a misguided conversation killer. So how do you climb out of the humungous hole that you've just dug for yourself?

When you've asked about a boyfriend who has run off with the babysitter, for instance, "offer a brief, sincere apology and change the subject quickly," Tomczak advises. "If you hadn't known already that the relationship was over, you're probably not close enough to discuss the intimate details anyway."

However, if you've really put your size sixes in it and can sense your conversation partner's blood is boiling by the minute, assess your clanger carefully and use damage control.

Tomczak says: "You don't want to dig yourself deeper into that hole with justifications or effusive apologies, so a swift change of subject could be in order."

"However, if your companion is outraged,

there's no way around it – say sorry, before moving on to a less controversial subject. Fill any awkward silences with

harmless questions or observations from which you can start up a new line of conversation."

Sarah Tomczak is published by Apple Press, *L Is For Lady* by £9.99; available now.

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Fun and safety advice for Hallowe'en

THE Vale Youth Service Pulse Team is marking Hallowe'en and Guy Fawkes Night with fun events for local youngsters this week.

Today, Area 41 will host a special Beatbox programme between 6pm-9pm and on Friday, young would-be breakdancers will be able to take part in a special workshop between 1pm-3pm.

On Saturday, Hallowe'en Vibe Experience is running a Fright Night event in the Memorial Hall, Barry from 7pm-10.30pm for young people aged 12-17 years old.

The night's entertainment, which is supported by Kiss 101 and DJs Matt Rogers and Reece Carter, will feature popular Barry band Motion Control as well as Beatbox Fozzy.

Also on Saturday, Vale Youth Service is running a county wide trip to Fright Night at

Thorpe Park. Coaches will be leaving from Penarth, Barry, Llantwit Major, St Athan and Cowbridge for young people aged 13-17 years.

In Penarth on Friday, October 30, the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Vale Youth Service are running the 'Shockwave Disco' at the Eclipse night club in the town. It is open to young people aged between 13-17 and tickets cost £2.50.

On November 6, Cowbridge youth centre will be playing host to a 'Battle of the Bands' from 6.45pm until 10pm and open to young people in the 13-17 age group.

Before schools broke up for their half-term break, they were all visited by South Wales Police schools liaison officers, who addressed assemblies about the dangers of fireworks, as well as how to avoid anti-social behaviour often linked to Hallowe'en.

Plaid hit out at housing plans

PLAID parliamentary candidate for the Vale, Dr Ian Johnson, has called upon residents who live in council-owned homes to reject plans to transfer housing stock to a social landlord.

Dr Johnson said: "The 4,000 families that live in council-owned accommodation in the Vale have a right to expect the Vale Council to look after them properly, not duck their responsibilities in the way suggested by the Conservative-run council."

"The attempted sale of council homes to the private social sector is a result of unfair practice by the Treasury in London."

"It is a New Labour policy that refuses a level playing ground between the council and private landlords, by stopping councils from borrowing money to fund improvements to council houses, but allows social landlords. This is clearly not fair."

Coun Nic Hodges, Plaid Cymru leader on the Vale Council, said: "The council might not always be the best landlord, but it is one where we all know where people stand."

"Those currently living in council accommodation must think very carefully before they vote to join the private sector – and not be fooled by spin that suggests they'll be better off by doing so."

We're up for the (Calder) Cup!



ABOVE: Barrivale members Kay Dyer and Betty Lewis, who were winners of the recent ladies pairs trophy, the Margaret Calder Cup.

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Both packages include canapés on arrival
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Stuffed with Goulash Cheese, Parmesan & Cheddar Cheese.
SMOKED SALMON FILLET
On a bed of Roasted Spinach.

MAIN COURSES
TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS TURKEY
Served with Redcurrant & Chilli Sauce.
ROAST BEEF
Served with Ivoir Gravy & Yorkshire pudding.
ROASTED DUCK
Served with Bacon & Orange Sauce.

ROASTED WILD RICE & SPINACH TIMBALE (v)
Sautéed with mixed Nuts, Cheddar Cheese and Crème Fraiche, Seasonal Vegetables with Honey & Port.

DESSERTS
TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS PUDDING
Served with Brandy Sauce.
BAILEYS IRISH CREAM CHARLOTTE
Baileys mousse, liqueur sponge and sweet caramel chocolate, garnished with chocolate sticks
LEMON ZEST ROULADE
Zesty fresh lemon cream rolled in sweet light, crispy Meringue. Sprinkled with crushed almonds and a dusting of icing sugar.

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2009/00970/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Canopy to front elevation
Location/Leoliad: 73, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2009/00975/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: New balcony to ground floor forming part car port to basement. Replacement balcony to first floor
Location/Leoliad: 21, Lakeside, The Knap, Barry
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Barry (Marine)

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2009/00984/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Alterations and extensions including single storey extension to replace conservatory and conversion of garage
Location/Leoliad: Highgate, Church Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: Cowbridge with Llanblethian

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2009/01013/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Increase in height of dwelling, introduction of single storey extension to side and roof lights
Location/Leoliad: St. Peters, Station Terrace, East Aberthaw
Conservation Area/Ardal Gadwraeth: East Aberthaw

Listed Building Consent Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2009/00966/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed amendments to previously approved conversion to hotel; alteration and extension to Hensol Castle to create spa; and conversion and extension of former southern ward blocks and concert hall to create 52 apartments
Location/Leoliad: Hensol Castle, Miskin
Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade I

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2009/00971/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Provide canopy to front elevation, provide advertisement to side plus hanging sign, provide internal shutters
Location/Leoliad: 73, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2009/00978/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: To remove rotten single glazed windows & replaced with double glazed wooden windows. The glazing if approved will be Pilkington K Low E
Location/Leoliad: Cherry Tree Cottage, Boverton Park Drive, Boverton
Listed Building/Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeidd Pen-naeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2009/00654/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Removal of condition 1 of approval 2008/01504/FUL to allow the composting plant to remain indefinitely
Location/Leoliad: Existing agricultural building situated 300m to the west of Llwynhelig Farm, Cowbridge

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2009/00934/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Retrospective planning application to regularise past mineral extraction and associated operations
Location/Leoliad: Land at Pant Quarry, St. Brides Major

Application No./Rhif y cais: 2009/00965/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed amendments to comprehensive mixed use redevelopment including conversion and extension of castle as hotel, conversion of ward blocks to residential use, development of holiday accommodation, new two storey staff accommodation and restoration of walled garden
Location/Leoliad: Hensol Castle, Miskin, Pendoylan

Application(s) submitted with an Environmental Statement Ceisiadau a gyflwynwyd gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Land at Pant Quarry, St. Brides Major.

I give notice that Tarmac Limited, is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Retrospective planning application to regularise past mineral extraction and associated operations.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £110.00 (CD = £5.00 from SLR Consulting, Aspect House, Aspect Business Park, Benerley Road, Nottingham. NG6 8WR so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.

- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 12 November, 2009.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 12 November 2009 quoting reference 2009/00934/FUL.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Land at Pant Quarry, St. Brides Major

Hysbysir trwy hyn Tarmac Limited, n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Retrospective planning application to regularise past mineral extraction and associated operations

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynu copïau o'r datganiad am £110.00 (CD = £5.00 oddi wrth/o SLR Consulting, Aspect House, Aspect Business Park, Benerley Road, Nottingham. NG6 8WR tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfenau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 12 Tachwedd, 2009.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 12 Tachwedd, 2009 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2009/00934/FUL.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Pant Quarry, St. Brides Major.

I give notice that Tarmac Minerals Limited, is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Application for determination of conditions for mineral site/mining site.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement at a charge of £110.00 (CD = £5.00 from SLR Consulting, Aspect House, Aspect Business Park, Benerley Road, Nottingham. NG6 8WR so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application.
- The plans.
- The environmental statement.
- Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 12 November, 2009.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 12 November 2009 quoting reference 2009/00935/ENV.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Pant Quarry, St. Brides Major

Hysbysir trwy hyn Tarmac Minerals Limited, n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Application for determination of conditions for mineral site/mining site

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd brynu copïau o'r datganiad am £110.00 (CD = £5.00 oddi wrth/o SLR Consulting, Aspect House, Aspect Business Park, Benerley Road, Nottingham. NG6 8WR oddi wrth/o tra bydd y stoc ar gael.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

- cais;
- cynlluniau;
- datganiad amgylcheddol;
- dogfenau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 12 Tachwedd, 2009.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 12 Tachwedd, 2009 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2009/00935/ENV.

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 14 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

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Dated: 29 October, 2009

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry,
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 29 Hydref, 2009

Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri,
CF63 4RT

Former mayor celebrates his 100th birthday



Mr Ben Evans is visited on his 100th birthday by the Vale Mayor and Mayoress.

FORMER mayor of Barry, Ben Evans, has celebrated his 100th birthday at the town's Orchard House residential care home.

Joining in the celebrations for Mr Evans, who was a Barry borough and Vale borough councillor, and last mayor of the old borough of Barry, were the current Vale Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams and the Mayoress, his wife, Joan. Telegrams from the Queen and First Minister for Wales, Rhodri Morgan AM, were among numerous congratulatory telegrams, messages and cards for Mr Evans.

A long-serving Labour councillor, Mr Evans was caretaker at Gladstone Primary School, Barry, before retirement and a keen trade unionist. He was also a great supporter of the local Mencap charity over many years.

Hailing from Treorchy, Mr Evans was born into a family of 10. His sister May, who is 96 and still lives in the original family home, was among those visiting him during the week. Mr Evans also enjoyed a family party which included his daughter, Lyn, of Barry Island, son Keith, of Chipping Sodbury, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Wick squeeze past Druids in local derby

LAST Saturday at Wick, strong winds and driving rain influenced the outcome of this local derby between Wick and Llantwit Major Druids.

Prior to this game, both teams were unbeaten in this Bridgend District Division Two league encounter. Wick unveiled a new kit, thanks to sponsor Pendragon Cleaning Ltd of Barry, and pass on their thanks to the company.

The visitors won the toss and elected to play uphill into the wind. Llantwit scored after the first quarter period with a powerful back row try by Liam Isaac near the sticks, which was converted.

It didn't look like it at the time, but this would be their last points.

After Druids' indiscipline at the fiercely-contested ruck area, Wick hit back with two penalties from vice-captain Dan Powell. Half-time score 6-7.

Most of the play was fought out in the middle 50-metre section of the pitch and raids into the 22s were rare. Although

Wick did touch down over the whitewash once, after a five-metre scrum, the try was disallowed.

A well-struck drop goal by Powell on the 22 edged Wick into the lead, 9-7. With play becoming intense to say the least in the last quarter, further ruck indiscipline from The Druids gave Powell an opportunity to increase the lead, which he took.

His season's kicking success rate is now an admirable 80 per cent. Final score 12-7.

The referee, from the Ospreys region, was quick to comment that the game was played with a rare intensity.

The best contest of the match was between the two open sides Liam Isaac (Llantwit) and Luke McNaughton. However, coach Creed, a former Llantwit player himself, was quick to praise a massive effort from his front eight – not wanting to single out any player as man-of-the-match.

This Saturday, Wick play Porthcawl in the 'Barry Morris Memorial Plate competition'.

PP

We welcome your news, views
and sports items.
Email them to:
ggem@internet-today.co.uk



COWBRIDGE FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL ENHANCES ITS CULINARY REPUTATION

COWBRIDGE is once again celebrating a successful food and drink festival, and the town has proved a magnet for culinary enthusiasts from the Vale and south Wales.

All the popular features of previous Cowbridge festivals were busy over the weekend.

The marquees were packed out with traders and customers, and at times it was hard to envisage how to squeeze any more in.

The popular demonstrations gave food fans a chance to see experienced chefs at work, as they gave a running commentary on their techniques – prompted by questions from TV personality Frances Donovan.

Local public houses organised beer and cider festivals, adding to the dazzling choice from micro-breweries exhibiting in the marquees.

There was also a popular craft fair, with stalls offering a huge variety of items.

The weekend proved once again that the festival is now a fixture in the culinary calendar – and in these financially stretched times it provided great value for money.

After all, there surely can't be anyone who regards the £2.50 adult entrance fee as anything but a good deal. Quite frankly, if you don't polish off £2.50 worth of free food and wine samples, you can't have been trying.

Similarly, all you have to do to send any small child home happy is to let them stand in anticipation for five minutes watching the chocolate foun-

PHILIP IRWIN savours the festival atmosphere.

tain. Of course, it's probably best to let them have a taste at the end!

However, the important people when it comes to future years are the traders. Without them, there is no festival.

Are they happy? Will they be back next year?

On behalf of *The GEM*, I spent Sunday wandering from stand to stand, sampling the wares and canvassing opinions. The only downside was that I was spending my own money!

The first stop was in the courtyard of Il Portico, which was offering free samples of its patisserie, and Tanners of Shrewsbury was doing likewise with the wines that it supplies to the Italian restaurant. There were some outstanding proseccos, and Rob Evans of Tanners said: "This is our first visit and I am impressed with the organisation, and it has been very enjoyable, although it was quite windy yesterday."

There were more sparkling wines at our next stop – not surprising as it was the Spar-sponsored champagne marquee.

Now this tent is a perfect example of how the business community in Cowbridge pulls together to make the food festival happen. Spar supermarket pay a sizeable amount to cover the cost of the marquee, staff from Bar 44 serve customers all day, and profits from the sale of champagne go back into the fund to finance next year's festival!

So, if you enjoy the festival, it is practically your civic duty to pick up a few bottles of bubbly!

Natalie from Bar 44 was delighted when I spoke to her, even though it was only 11.30am and the tent was, not surprisingly, quiet. She said: "We set a target of selling 500 bottles of champagne over the weekend and by the end of Saturday, we had already sold 350! We have been on the phone this morning ordering extra!"

On the way into the main festival area, I spoke to the food festival manager, Polly Wilson. Between fielding queries on her walkie-talkie, she said that things were going well, despite the poor weather on Saturday.

She said: "The weather forecast indicated that Sunday was going to be better than Saturday, and the numbers who are arriving this morning confirm that."

"However, the exhibitors were happy yesterday, and I was pleased with the number of new exhibitors we had this year. Certainly, there have been no problems so far."

She said that the prospects for next year were good, although they would be looking for more sponsors, as was always the case.

She said: "We think it is important to offer a festival without hidden extras. I think parents would not be happy if they had to pay for things such as face painting, so we make sure that fun things for

the children are free."

Once inside the first of the marquees, we were spoiled for choice, and the only problem was getting near some of the stalls. After sampling some of the various goat's cheese on offer at 'Kid Me Not', I asked stallholder Mike, who had travelled from Carmarthen, how things were going.

He said: "I have come for the last three years, and things are going well, although there was a slow start yesterday."

The next stallholder hadn't travelled so far. Leighton Morris of 'Grow your own Chillis' had come all the way from Cowbridge, offering plants that you can grow indoors, just as with any house plant, and look forward to a harvest each year for three years. Leighton reported that he was doing brisk business, with more people being attracted by the idea of a practical and unusual house plant.

"Is there a doctor in the house?" There was one on the Warcup Brewery stand. Dr William Picton had made the trip from Newport, Gwent, with a range of lagers, beers and ciders.

Dr William is a doctor in the field of bio-enzymes, which sounds as if it is pretty useful when it comes to fermentation and all the other mysteries that go into brewing, and his beers were certainly classy and distinctive!

There was a bit of east-west rivalry in this area of the festival, as I next spoke to another micro-brewery, this time from Aberaeron.

Penny, from Penlon Cottage Brewery, however, shared Dr William's view that things were going well in terms of sales.

A regular, who has been coming to Cowbridge since the festival started, was Wil, of Wil's Smoke House in Herefordshire, who smokes some unlikely items, and he was doing very good business with his smoked pumpkin seeds.

Wil agreed with his fellow stallholders, saying that things had started slowly on Saturday, but that sales had really picked up.

The Cowbridge Fairtrade group had a stall at the festival, and Linda Osborne told me that there had been a great deal of interest in Fairtrade, with plenty of visitors wanting to know more.

The next stop was at Cocina Ceramics from north Devon, where I found Bernadette to be a fervent disciple of the Cowbridge festival. She said: "This is one of the best-organised festivals that we come to, and it is always well worthwhile."

"In fact, I don't go to many these days – my colleagues in the business do most of them – but I insisted on doing Cowbridge."

She added: "We went to one recently in the west midlands, and that was a complete mess compared to Cowbridge."

Over at the stall belonging to 'The Best of Taste', Nick was bucking the 'slow start on Saturday' trend. He had brought a delicious range of coulis and dessert sauces from his base in Shropshire, all tasting – he insisted – of the fruit rather than any added sugar.

He said: "I don't think I could have done more business yesterday. I was on my own and just never stopped!"

I can vouch for his taste test, by the way, and I handed over my own cash for his raspberry coulis.

On the next stall, there was a rather nervous Trisha Hill from the Hendrewennol Fruit garden in the Vale. She was nervous because she was due on the demonstration stand in half an hour, demonstrating some unusual blends of fruit smoothie.

"It's the first time I have done one!" she said.

There were some distinctive spirits on offer at Celtic Spirit from Abergavenny, and Ros reported that they were doing good business, particularly on their apple brandies.

Finally, I visited what had to be the most memorable stall, and spoke to Nikki from 'Why Not Hot?' – the Chilli People, who had come along from west Wales, bringing with her a huge range of chilli sauces and chutneys.

Now, journalists are always advised to avoid the obvious questions, but sometimes you just have to ask, so I said: "Do macho blokes come along and say: 'Let me try your hottest chilli sauce.'"

She replied: "It happens all the time," and pointed to about 15 bottles, all lined up.

"They are hotter as you go left to right."

The one on the extreme right was called 'Unhinged', and the bottle warned: "This product could cause you to lose your grip on reality!"

Nikki said: "It's 6.5 million scovilles. That is how they rate hotness."

"What is tabasco on that scale?" I replied.

"About 100,000."

Well that was that. I am a firm believer in discretion being the better part of valour, and I was not going to engage in a pointless piece of macho posturing just to prove I could do it.

That was until my companion spooned some of the sauce onto a tortilla cracker and popped it into her mouth!

Well, sometimes you have to stand up for the male gender, so I smeared a smidgeon onto a cracker and did likewise.

Nikki smiled – and waited. She didn't have to wait long.

Helpfully, she said: "There's an ice cream stall just around the corner."

Ten minutes later I said to my friend: "How's the tongue?"

"It's still on fire."

We were in complete agreement



ABOVE: Heaven for children, the chocolate fountains looked irresistible!

BELOW: 'Who ate all the pies? By the end of the day, quite a few!'



ABOVE: An expert commentary, with Frances Donovan holding the microphone.

Enjoying a great food festival day out!

THE old adage 'If it ain't broke don't fix it', is true at Cowbridge's food and drink festival.

Rather than tamper with a winning formula, the organisers have instead 'tweaked' it on an annual basis, refining here and adding a little extra there.

The regular food demonstrations (right) remain a popular feature, and around the town there were clowns, magicians and musical entertainment – all designed to create that festival atmosphere.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are
available from this event.

**Pictures can be purchased
by contacting:**

e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 01446 773225.

**Now open in the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.*



BELOW: The Vale AM, Jane Hutt (on right) is a regular festival visitor.



Smiles all round for the festival weekend!

TO find the heart of the food festival, it was necessary to spend time in the main marquees – watching as visitors sought out old favourites or tested new products.

It is not often possible to speak to traders who know so much about their products – or who are so passionate about it!

Of course, the festival could not survive and prosper without a small army of willing volunteers, such as the gentlemen below who were on duty at the main entrance throughout the weekend.

Another delighted visitor was the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Jon Harris, seen arriving (below) with his wife, Vi, the Mayoress.



ABOVE:
There were snacks for passers-by in the high street.



The pictures on this page were taken by MIKE WILCOCK.
They are available to order from wilcock60@aol.com or telephone 01446 774502.



ABOVE: The Cowbridge Fairtrade Group were waving the flag for ethical trading.



ABOVE:
Trisha Hill of Hendrewennol Fruit Garden (right) was just about to go on stage in the food demonstration marquee.



BELOW:
There is more than one way of attracting attention to your stall!



Fashion Week nets £5,000 for one of Vale's great causes

COWBRIDGE FASHION WEEK raised more than £5,000 for Ty Hafan, the charity based in Sully which provides end of life care to children with life-limiting conditions.

Esther Hitchcock, a member of Cowbridge Fashion Week committee, told The GEM: "We will be able to give Ty Hafan more than £5,000 thanks to the event."

"We're hoping to hold a presentation of a giant cheque in the near future."

"Over the three days we had a perfect response, the atmosphere was great."

There will be another Cowbridge Fashion Week in the future, but no final decision has been made as to whether it will be in a year's time or possibly 18 months.

Esther added: "Each time an event like this is held you learn something new, and we will be able to take that forward to Cowbridge's next Fashion Week."

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

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available from this event.

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*Now open in the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.



ABOVE:
Actor Michael Sheen's father, Meyrick,
is the king of the Jack Nicholson
look-a-likes



£3.6million buildings revamp unveiled Pendoylan primary school celebrates

PUPILS and staff at a Vale school are celebrating after details were revealed of its £3.6m redevelopment scheme.

The scheme for Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary, which is 136 years old, involves the replacement of demountable classrooms with new build, refurbishment of the original school house structure to accommodate the nursery, library and staff and administration facilities, a new assembly hall (including kitchen) and provision of improved access, parking and a bus turning bay.

News of the massive redevelopment scheme is in sharp contrast to the school's uncertain position in the late 1980s

when pupil numbers had fallen to just 58.

However, under head-teacher Lyn Murray, who took up the post in 1995, the school has gone from strength to strength and now boasts a pupil roll of 204.

Two recent Estyn inspections, while acknowledging the successes, progress and achievements at the school, did, however, highlight the inadequacy of the building fabric and facilities.

The governing body took action resulting in the current scheme mainly funded by the Llandaff Diocese and the Welsh Assembly Government. The scheme is costing £3,587,500, with a £389,000 contribution from the Vale Council.

The cabinet member



for education and lifelong learning, Coun Tony Hampton said: "The council is delighted to be able to support a scheme

which will help Pendoylan continue to build on the excellent work achieved by Mrs Murray, her staff and the governors in recent years."

The local ward member, Coun Rhodri Traherne, said: "This is a hugely important development which will transform the school. Without this Vale Council contribution, the project might not have gone ahead."

Mrs Murray said: "Thanks to the excellent support of the governing body, we have strived to ensure that our thriving

school provides the best possible learning environment for pupils."

"This scheme is a massive boost for pupils and staff, and will help the school to continue to build on the excellent Estyn reports following their last two inspections."

The chair of governors, Jan Rees, said: "The governors and staff at Pendoylan feel very fortunate that, in these difficult times, they are able to go ahead with this development. We are delighted that our vision is now set to

become a reality, taking the school forward into the 21st century."

"We are very grateful to the Vale Council and the Llandaff Diocese of the Church in Wales for their support, and also to the Welsh Assembly for their investment and acknowledgement that village schools play a very important role in their communities."

The new development, which incorporates materials sympathetic to the site, surrounding buildings and landscape, includes several sustainable design

LEFT:

Helping pupils celebrate the news of a £3.6m redevelopment scheme for Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School are, from left: Vale councillor Rhodri Traherne, cabinet member for economic development and regeneration and local ward member, the Rev Edwin Counsell, Llandaff Diocesan Director of Statutory Education, Lyn Murray, head-teacher, Jan Rees, chair of governors, and Vale councillor Tony Hampton, cabinet member for education and lifelong learning.

elements. These include a geothermal heating system and sustainable surface water drainage system. Wherever possible, materials arising from the demolition will be recycled and used in construction work.

Judith Petersen, of chartered architects Petersen Williams, who prepared the scheme,

said: "The refurbished school will be physically linked with the infant classroom accommodation, with all classrooms served by a 'street' running between the new and existing buildings. The larger hall will be at the 'heart' of the layout and provides a new focus for the school and the wider community."



A 3D image of the proposed £3.6m redevelopment scheme at Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School.

Archaeology talk

ON Tuesday, November 10 at 7.30pm, Matthew Griffiths, Civic Trust for Wales, will give a talk entitled 'Archaeology 'A sense of Place'.

This will take place in the Kynance Church Hall, Dinas Powys. An administration fee of £1.50 will be charged for non-members and £1 for members. This is to cover running expenses. All are very welcome to attend.

For further information, contact 01446 701273.

Out and About with The GEM

Children's festival competition winners



LEFT:
Robin
Banford's
scary
pumpkin!



RIGHT:
Dafydd
Furnham's
winning
cake.

THE winners of two GEM-sponsored competitions held during the Cowbridge Festival of Food and Drink have been announced.

Taking the prize for the best carved pumpkin was a local girl, Robin Bamford, aged just three!

In the cake decorating competition, there was a much older winner as Dafydd Furnham, all of five years old, impressed the judges.

Young art winners



A COMPETITION was held recently as part of Waitrose Barry's celebrations at the newly-refurbished branch.

The theme of the painting was 'seasonal' and organisers reported a "fantastic response" from local schools.

The paintings are currently displayed in the coffee shop at the Barry store.

The winners were:

Under 5: 1st - Riley O'Neill, Cogan Nursery; 2nd - Tegan, Jenner Park; 3rd - Aaron Belby, Ysgol Sant Baruc.

5 to 7 years: 1st - Elise Nessbert, Gwenvo c/w Primary; 2nd - Ashton Sparkes, Jenner Park; 3rd - Emily Mardon, Gwenvo c/w Primary.

8 to 11 years: 1st - Carys Mills, Jenner Park; 2nd - Leah, Jenner Park; 3rd - Christopher Neale, Jenner Park.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 589.

● £2000: 725565. ● £500: 435564. ● £100: 487733. ● £50: 819147. ● £10: 290434, 398679, 776644, 816472, 615576, 215528, 470152, 298042, 634772, 576463, 146817, 255329, 676811, 769813, 205867, 849158, 915157, 586997, 885571, 363686. ● £5: 446505, 279253.

172190, 551228, 358346, 800201, 782621, 354428, 652282, 653404, 662208, 380206, 664139, 898361, 302561, 605476, 639749, 432866, 842422, 352312, 427837, 863173, 181988, 274404, 123181, 202545, 888545, 603562, 479593, 759178.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Table top sale

THERE will be a table top and car boot sale on Saturday, November 7 at the Colcot Community Centre, Tennyson Road (off Winston Road), Barry.

Doors open at 12noon for stallholders only, and buyers will be welcomed from 1pm. To reserve a table or car boot, contact 01446 402893.

There will also be a Christmas bazaar, bric-a-brac stall, gift stalls, raffle and refreshments.

Proceeds go to the Wednesday Club.

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Nicholas Parsons winner

MANDY GILTINAN of Rhoose, was the lucky winner of our competition to receive four tickets to see Nicholas Parsons at St Donats last Saturday (October 24).

The entertainer was hosting an evening entitled 'Just A Laugh A Minute' and a great time was had by all!

PSYCHOTHERAPY & COUNSELLING
Contact: Miriam Handren
01446 760159

Photo exhibition at Victoria Park

A BARRY park is staging an exhibition at Victoria Park, Cadoston, featuring digital photography work by "complete beginners to old hands".

'Viewfinders' runs at 'The Room in the Park' from Sunday,

November 1-15. It will be open daily from 10am-4pm except Mondays and Saturdays (1pm-4pm).

Viewfinders are a group of enthusiastic amateur digital photographers who have formed into a workshop to encourage, help and share knowledge of digital imagery and photography.

The members, whose ages range from 16 to 78 years of age, all share a passion for photography and wish to learn new skills in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. The exhibition is a first venture to share and display their achievements.



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LLANTWIT MAJOR - £169,950



Well maintained modern three bedroom semi-detached house with utility room and conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Inner hall, Lounge, Dining room with patio doors, Well fitted Kitchen, En-suite shower room and family bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 332D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £310,000



Well presented three/four bedroom detached property and attached double garage comprising Lounge, Dining Room with French doors to Conservatory, Refurbished modern Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, En-suite to Master Bedroom, Family Bathroom. Gas Central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Open plan to front and good size landscaped rear garden. Freehold Ref 403D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £174,950



Established three bedroom semi-detached bungalow with conservatory and detached garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Inner Hall, Dining Room with patio doors to conservatory, Shower Room/WC, Third bedroom and cloakroom to first floor. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and established gardens. Freehold Ref 409D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £179,950



Established three bedroom semi-detached house with detached garage occupying a corner position comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen with door to Conservatory, Modern shower room. UPVC double glazing throughout. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and good size gardens to front, side and rear. Freehold. Ref 415D.

NEW PRICE LLANTWIT MAJOR - £395,000



The Curriers Guest house formerly known as the 'Currier Arms' and prior two cottages built Circa 1800 situated in the conservation area of the town. Two independent entrances comprising four reception rooms, two kitchens, six bedrooms with H & C facilities, two bathrooms and shower room. Gas central heating. All regulations in place. Guest House or family residence. Freehold Ref 431D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £229,950



Established three bedroom detached bungalow and garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, small en-suite to bedroom one, Modern Bathroom/WC. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 432D

NEW PRICE LLANTWIT MAJOR - £264,950



Spacious modern well maintained four bedroom detached house comprising Lounge, Dining Room, Newly fitted well equipped Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom, UPVC double glazed Conservatory, En-suite to two of the bedrooms plus Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and established gardens. Freehold. Ref 446D

RHOOSE - £155,000



Two bedroom semi-detached bungalow and garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Bathroom/WC. Gas central heating. Driveway and mature gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 452D

BOVERTON - £139,750



Modern three bedroom link house with garage comprising Porch, Lounge, Well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Open plan to front and good size rear garden with access to the garage. Ref 464D

BOVERTON - £157,000



Modern three bedroom semi detached house with good size family accommodation as the integral garage has been recently converted into an additional reception room. Comprising Hallway, Lounge which has been extended, Fitted Kitchen, Dining area, Utility Room, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. PVC rainwater goods. Driveway to front and garden to the rear. Freehold. Ref 465D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £210,000



Modern three bedroom detached house and garage situated at the head of a cul de sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining area with patio doors opening to rear. En-suite shower room to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and low maintenance gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 466D

ST ATHAN - £132,000



Modern two bedroom semi-detached house with detached garage comprising Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining room, Bathroom, staircase from the first floor leads to a loft room with Velux windows fitted. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Garden to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 467D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £380,000



Individually designed detached four bedroom family residence and detached double garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom, Two bedrooms and Bathroom to ground floor, two further bedroom and Cloakroom to first floor, adjoining Summer house and Conservatory currently used as a games room. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazing. Good size gardens and greenhouse. Freehold. Ref 468D

NEW PRICE ST ATHAN - £135,000



Three bedroom semi-detached house with Conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room with doors leading to conservatory, Bathroom, Separate WC. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Open plan garden to front and private garden to the rear. Allocated parking. Freehold Ref 469D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £350,000



Well maintained detached house and garage with purpose built annexe originally used as a granny flat. Main residence - Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Three bedrooms, Bathroom/WC. Annexe - Lounge/Diner, Kitchenette, Bedroom, Shower Room. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazing. Good size gardens with sun terrace and decked areas. Freehold. Ref 470D

NEW ST ATHAN VILLAGE - £139,950



Established double fronted three bedroom semi-detached house and detached double garage comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom/Shower Room. Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Well laid gardens to front and rear. Greenhouse. Freehold Ref 471D

NEW LLANTWIT MAJOR - £257,500



Well maintained modern four bedroom detached house with conservatory to the rear situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room with patio doors to Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 474D

NEW LLANTWIT MAJOR - £320,000



Well maintained established detached bungalow and double garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Study, Inner Hallway, Re-fitted Bathroom/Shower Room, Re-fitted Kitchen/Dining Room with French doors to rear, Sitting Room, Ground floor bedroom with en-suite bathroom, Three further bedrooms to first floor. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazing. Workshop/Tool store. Mature gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 475D

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1 BEDROOM

Romanza House, Barry£450 pcm
YMCA Building, Barry£420 pcm

2 BEDROOMS

The Wheate Close, Rhoose£525 pcm
Beaufort Way, Rhoose£525 pcm
Murlande Way, Rhoose£475 pcm
Murlande Way, Rhoose£495 pcm
Partridge Road, St Athan£450 pcm
Mallory Close, St Athan£465 pcm
Cattwg Close, Llantwit Major£525 pcm

3 BEDROOMS

Picton Road, Rhoose£695 pcm
Cwrt Newton Pool, Rhoose£650 pcm
Scott Close, St Athan£475 pcm
Scott Close, St Athan£500 pcm

4 BEDROOMS

Portkerry Road, Rhoose£1,000 pcm

6 BEDROOMS

Porfa Ballas£1,250 pcm

More properties
urgently required
for waiting tenants



Llantwit Major 01446 792020

Walnut Grove, St Athan



3 bed with off road parking **£119,950**

St Davids Crescent, St Athan



3 bed link detached with garage **£139,950**

Compton House, East Street, Llantwit Major



Unique and tucked away 3 bed property **£159,950**

Drake Close, St Athan



3 bed semi with garage **£139,950**

Groeswen, Llantwit Major



4 bed detached with garage and conservatory **£239,995**

Picketston Close, St Athan



3 bed semi with garage **£139,950**

Caer Worgan, Llantwit Major



3 bed detached with garage & conservatory **£155,000**

Byron Court, Llantwit Major



1 bed 1st floor retirement with lift **£69,950**

Rhoose 01446 711900

Torbay Terrace, Rhoose



3 bedrooms, sea views, 120ft garden & garage **£154,950**

Matthew Road, Rhoose



3 bedrooms, pleasant gardens, workshop/studio **£199,950**

Barry 01446 700007

Bell Street, Barry



Superb terraced house with 2/3 bedrooms. No chain **£114,950**

Miskin Street, Barry



Sought after terraced house with 4 bedrooms and sea views **£189,950**



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK Glebeland Place, St Athan

A traditional semi detached property located in a quiet close and briefly comprising entrance hallway, cloakroom/WC, dining room, sitting room, conservatory, kitchen with extended breakfast room, 3 well proportioned bedrooms and a shower room. Outside the property stands on a generous plot with a garage to the rear and potential to extend to the side of the property subject to the usual consents. The property enjoys UPVC double glazed windows and doors and gas central heating.

£159,950

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2 bed, 2 bath townhouse

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- Fully furnished.
- Communal pool.
- Superb Views.
- Alicante airport 45 minutes.
- Beaches 10 minutes.
- Golf 5 minutes.
- Walking distance to bars, shops & restaurants.

Incredible Value £119,950

Call Paul for free 0800 135 7503

Paul is extremely helpful and speaks your language. Originally from Cardiff Paul has lived in Spain with his wife for nearly 10 years so he is well placed to answer all your questions about buying and living in Spain.

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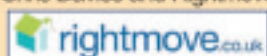


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HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, or apply in writing to:

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department

Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or

Newydd Housing Association

121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

Vale of Glamorgan Council
Newydd Housing Association
Hafod Housing Association
Wales and West Housing Association

AVON CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 250899
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55

- One bedroom bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £77.01 per week including water and alarm charges

CAMMS CORNER, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 230514
Suitable for a single person or couple – no pets

- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £74.93 per week including service charges

CAMPBELL COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1034895
Suitable for a single person or couple – no pets (Priority given to people with mobility problems)

- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £73.66 per week including service charge

CLOS LLAWHADEN, BARRY

H4U Reference 1034908
Suitable for families (Priority given to people with disabilities)

- Four-bedroom house
- Bedroom/wet room on ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking and garden

Rent £89.41 per week including service charge

DUDLEY PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 207751
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55

- One bedroom bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £80.85 per week including water and alarm charges

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1034884
Suitable for a single person or couple

- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Parking

Rent £67.76 per week including service charge and heating and water

GATEHOLM CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 1034726
Suitable for families

- Two-bedroom house
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £70.90 per week including service charges

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 1034919
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets

- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Warden
- Parking/shared entrance

Rent £106.33 per week including service charges, water & heating

HANOVER COURT, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 1032559
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 (or 55 with medical need)

- 2 x one-bedroom flats
- First and ground floor
- Scheme Manager
- Alarm system

Rent £82.28 p.w.including service and alarm charges

HARLECH GARDENS, BARRY

H4U Reference 211283
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets

- One bedroom flat
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £71.97 per week including service charges

KING STREET, PENARTH

H4U Reference 240741
Suitable for families (pref. given to existing tenants in overcrowded accommodation)

- Four-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £89.12 per week including water charges

LIDDICOAT COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1034873
Suitable for a single person or couple – no pets (Pref. given to people with good tenancy history)

- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking/shared entrance

Rent £67.72 per week including service charge

MOREL STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 217316
Suitable for families

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.00 per week including water charges

OAK COURT, PENARTH (3)

H4U Reference 995592
Suitable for a single person over 60 (or 55 with medical need)

- 2x ground floor studios
- 1 x first floor studio
- Scheme Manager & alarm
- Lift

Visitors welcome. Call 029 2070 1661 to arrange
Rent £85.95 pw including service and alarm charges

OSPREY COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1034920
Suitable for a single person or couple

- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £67.76 per week including service charge

PEARCE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1034691
Suitable for families

- Two-bedroom house
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £72.45 per week including service charges

PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 219625
Suitable for families

- 1x two-bedroom house
- 1x two-bedroom flat (gf)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £82.11(house) and £70.59 (flat) per week including water charges

POWIS VIEW, BARRY

H4U Reference 483965
Suit. for a single person, couple or family with older children

- Two-bedroom flat
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £87.95 per week including service charges

SLADEWOOD HOUSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 223676
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets

- Two bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £70.74 per week including service charges

ST DYFRIG ROAD, PENARTH

H4U Reference
Suitable for families

- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £68.20 per week including service charge

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Feedback appears in our other advert



WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT AND WHERE IN THE VALE?

Mrs Nicola Roderick – **4 Porlock Drive, Sully** – proposed single storey extension to rear of property.
Mr Allen Parkhouse – **Cherry Tree Cottage, Boverton Park Drive, Boverton** – to remove rotten single glazed windows and replaced with double glazed wooden windows. The glazing if approved will be Pilkington K Low E.
Mr Richard Louch – **The Bakehouse, rear of 126 High Street, Barry** – two bedroom detached dwelling conversion.
C/o agent – **rear garden of Upper Farm Cottage, Fontygary Road, Rhose** – remove Leylandi Cypress.
Mr Richards – **Hill House, Bradford Place, Penarth** – further cabling of T1 Lawsons Cypress; reduce T2 holly to 3.0metres; re-pollard T3 Lime (Ilex - remove nuisance - EMEMPT).
Evan Williams – **Racing Stables, Aberogwrn Farm, Llancafarn** – planning permission for the existing hay barn, and horse walker two, on the site.
Food Programme Delivery Orchard Group – **Co-op Foodstore, Port Road, Wyecock Cross, Barry** – two x fascia signs, two x replacement panels to existing post, three x information signs.
Mr Matthew Price – **Highgate, Church Road, Llanblethian,**

Cowbridge – alterations and extensions including single storey extension to replace conservatory and conversion of garage.
NJ Esterkin – **72 Holton Road, Barry** – conversion of upper floors into two flats.
Mrs Renuka Patel – **34 Barry Road, Barry** – to convert this three bedroom end of terrace house into two self-contained two bedroom apartments.
Mr Andrew Williams – **Redlands Court Farm, Five Mile Lane, Bonvilston** – two storey residential dwelling.
Mrs S Teagle – **8 Britway Road, Dinas Powys** – single storey rear extension.
Mr Simon Morgan – **10 Earl Road, Penarth** – proposed first floor extension above approved garage to side of existing dwelling.
Santander, Mr Richard Yeates – **120 Holton Road, Barry** – replacement external signage converting the current Bradford & Bingley to Santander.
Mr Stephen Keogh – **land to the rear of 37 Victoria Road, Penarth** – proposed two bedroom dwelling with associated parking and amenity space at land to the rear of 37 Victoria Road, Penarth, demolition of existing outbuilding.
Mr and Mrs John Earl – **Dros Y Mor, Southerndown** – first

floor extension and addition of pitched roof to property (amendments to application 2009/00173/FUL).
Mr Glyn Williams – **13 Hardy Close, Barry** – detached garage to replace demolished.
Mr and Mrs Dovey – **Bryn Deryn Lodge, Station Road, Peterston Super Ely** – alterations and extensions. Replace approved single pitched dormer with two smaller pitched roof dormers and remove condition three of 2008/00255/FUL.
Mr Anthony Cowling – **Stable Bungalow, The Herberts Farm, St Mary Church** – tractor implement shed.
Mrs C Sharpe – **58 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – part demolition of existing conservatory, alterations to existing rear extension and erection of single storey extension.
Mr Robert Bird – **32 Greenway Close, Llandough, Penarth** – two storey rear extension.
Ms Susan George – **12 Meadowcroft, Rhose** – conservatory.
Mr Mark Hitchcock – **Chy Avallan, Llanblethian, Cowbridge** – proposed alterations and single storey extension to form kitchen and breakfast area.
Mr Patrick Davies – **Old Barn Cottage, Church Road, Llanblethian** –

addition of hardstanding to front of property.
Mr Syed Asad Rizvi – **Sky Plaza Cardiff Airport, Port Road, Rhose** – retrospective planning application for the erection of two signs advertising the hotel and associated restaurant.
Mr and Mrs Trevitt – **Fitz Project Management – 107 Barry Road, Barry** – change of use from Shop A1 to shop A3.
Paddle Ltd – **former allotments, Cedar Road, St Athan** – modification to condition No 5 consent no 2009/00741/FUL.
Mr Andrew Lewis – **Yr Hen Felin, St Donats** – amendments to existing garage to provide storage facility.
Mr Cook – **New House, Higher End, St Athan** – rear uPVC conservatory.
Messrs Brian and Ian Mead – **Trem-Y-Glyn, 8 Windmill Lane, Cowbridge** – demolish existing house on site.
Erect two new two-storey detached dwellings with associated landscaping, terraces, parking.
Mr Phillip Kenna – **118 Andrew Road, Penarth** – proposed garage with garden room to rear.
Mr Ian Taylor – **Milkwood, Graig Penllyn, Cowbridge** – erection of a timber log cabin (removal of an existing shed in the same location).
Mr A Porter and Ms R Harrison – **32 Britway**

Road, Dinas Powys – first floor extension and alteration and improvement works.
Mr Richardson – **31A Albert Road, Penarth** – extension at first floor to provide a studio flat and alterations to shopfront.
Mr and Mrs Trevitt – **Glendon, Argae Lane, Dinas Powys** – replacement dwelling.
Mr and Mrs Wilson – **4 Windmill Close, Llantwit Major** – construct pitched roof over existing flat roof to former garage. Extension and alterations to outbuilding to provide annex to the main house.
Mr Iain McCarthy – **St Peters, Station Terrace, East Aberthaw** – increase in height of dwelling, introduction of single storey extension to side and roof lights.
Mr John Lewis – **Croeswrtta Cottage, Castle upon Alun** – extension to existing dwelling.
Mr Wink – **40 Porthkerry Road, Rhose** – two storey side extension.
Mr Ivor Davies – **44 Clive Place, Penarth** – replacement window in rebuilt rear elevation No 44 Clive Place.
Mr and Mrs K Chalk – **132 Colcot Road, Barry** – single storey rear extension including kitchen and living accommodation.
Mr Sion Richards – **6 Old Port Road, Wenvoe** – single storey

extension.
Mr Matthew Baird – **40 King Street, Penarth** – demolition of structurally defective rear extension and replacement with new to match existing.
Ms Joan Palmer – **11 Vista Court, Northcliffe Drive, Penarth** – single storey extension to provide utility/breakfast area.
Sodexo Ltd – **4 School of Technical Training, MoD St Athan (East Camp), St Athan, Barry** – temporary five-year planning permission for the replacement of Building 901 (as an alternative design as permitted under 2009/00449/FUL).
Mr Robyn Davies – **Hiraeth, Trepit Road, Wick** – installation of solar thermal panels.
Mrs Natalie Bosworth – **Great House Cottage, Welsh St Donats** – amendment of Planning Permission 2006/00147/FUL to allow for the construction of a chimney stack enabling a wood burning stove to be used.
Mr WD Harvie – **27 Boverton Brook, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – demolition of existing conservatory, erection of new single storey rear extension and rear dormer roof conversion.
Mr Mark Rees – **Warren House, Pendoylan** – additional garage storage to sup-

port existing house, to provide space for four parking bays, workshop and storage area to the first floor.
Pendragon (Design & Build) Ltd – **vacant land at corner of Vere Street/Harvey Street, Barry** – remove condition No 2 - Planning Application 2007/01049/FUL.
Mr Wayne Marsh – **Ty Luc Farm, Old Port Road, Wenvoe** – proposed demolition of four stable blocks and retention of six stable blocks all as existing on site.
Mr Philip Hunt – **Wauw View, Burdons Hill, Wenvoe** – demolition and re-erection of existing bungalow together with erection and extensions as previous planning approval 2009/00241/FUL.
Mrs Julie Bunn – **39 Palmerston Road, Barry** – proposed bathroom extension.
Mr and Mrs PJ O'Donnell – **plot adjacent to Lyndale, The Causeway, Llanblethian** – new two storey dwelling (renewal of 2004/00731/FUL).
3D Property Investments Ltd – **55 Plas Taliesin, Penarth** – proposed replacement balcony to rear. Proposed Juliet balcony to rear. Proposed extension of existing balcony to front.
Governors and Trustees Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School – **field adjacent to**

Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School, Pendoylan – 30-metre length of hedgerow to be removed from field/road boundary to allow creation of bus turning circle.
Mrs Jones – **8 Albert Crescent, Penarth** – remove mature Eucalyptus from rear garden.
Mr Said – **9 Broad Street, Barry** – conversion of rear store building to duplex flat.
Mr and Mrs Price – **Highgate, Church Road, Llanblethian** – fell Cypress (TPO); fell cherry and rowan (TCA). (Works to horse chestnut and cherry EXEMPT); beech hedge not protected at all.
Mr Richard O'Neill – **Unit 2, Vale Business Park, Llandow, Cowbridge** – change of use to work treatment and transfer facility.
Miss Cindy Perry – **Holm View Cottage, Pen-y-Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys** – demolition of existing bungalow and construction of new dwelling.
Mr Mike Cuddy – **Tyn-y-Caeau Farm, Primrose Hill, Cowbridge** – single storey extension with indoor pool to existing house and outbuildings with association landscaping works.

Visit our show home – 50 Tennyson Road, Penarth on 10/11 November 2009

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has completed its latest Show Home so tenants can see for themselves the types of improvements it has planned to meet the Assembly Government's Welsh Housing Quality Standard.

This is the fifth show home the Council has completed in response to questions from tenants who would like to know more about the Welsh Housing Quality Standard and to see what an improved home would look like in reality.

In particular, we have received a number of questions about kitchens and bathrooms, with many people keen to find out what an 'up to date' kitchen or bathroom looks like.

Other people have been keen to see the types of windows and doors that are being fitted to properties that need them.

Tenants told us that the best way to get an idea of what an improved property would be like would be to see one for themselves. So, we took an empty council house in Penarth and made the changes necessary to bring it up to the Standard.

What does a house that meets the Standard have?

The show homes:

- have up to date kitchens and bathrooms;
- are in a good state of repair;
- are adequately heated, insulated and fuel-efficient;
- are safe, secure and located in attractive and safe environments;
- are well managed and can be adapted to meet the needs of any household;
- have showers fitted over baths; and
- have easily-controllable heating and hot water systems.

If you would like to see what one of our show homes looks like, please call in.

Members of the Council's housing team will be on hand on the following days to show you around and answer any questions.

50 Tennyson Road, Penarth

Tuesday, 10/11/2009

Between 3:00pm and 7:00pm

Wednesday, 11/11/2009

Between 3:00pm and 7:00pm

See our main advert for full contact details



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We can offer hassle-free tenancy management and re-letting services through Foundation Housing, the managing agent. We can also help with a rent guarantee and carry out repairs.

If you are interested visit our websites at:

www.fhts.org.uk and

www.hafod.org.uk/cartrefi-hafod/cartrefi-hafod-leasehold-service.htm

or contact **Diana Turner** at Foundation Housing by telephone on **029 2081 5606** or e-mail at diana.turner@fhts.org.uk.

FEEDBACK

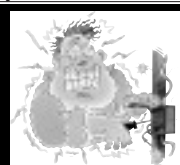
Address	Bids	Band	Reg.	Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Elis Fisher Court	19	Gold	25/06/07	Stradling PI	71	Gold	08/12/08
Heritage Drive	126	Gold	17/11/08	Effion Close	30	Silver	12/05/09
Ty Gwnfo	6	Silver	07/07/06	James St	44	Gold	11/10/05
Buttrills Walk	11	Silver	08/01/08	Jenner Rd	95	Gold	13/05/08
Gwenog Court	10	Silver	11/09/07	Crawshay C	2	Silver	16/09/08
Fairoaks	14	Gold	17/03/09	St Peters	76	Gold	13/05/08
Cresswell Court	37	Gold	05/12/08	Hywel Cres	134	Gold	11/06/08
Hill Street	19	Bronze	17/04/07	Hathaway PI	38	Gold	16/01/09
Irving Place	53	Gold	21/04/08	Glyndwr Rd	69	Gold	13/10/08
Laugharne Court	40	Gold	06/08/08	Proctor Cl	40	Gold	03/04/07





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DURESTA Large 2/3 seater sofa and armchair. Immaculate, cost £2,500, sell for £350. Tel: 01446 736162. (41)

BROWN LEATHER SOFA with cream stitching 3 seater and chair £530 ono. Tel: 01446 751075. (41)

SMALL DRESSER Welsh style £50. Tel: 01446 771832. (43)

TO CEILING SLIDING mirror wardrobe, 4 doors 3x7'6" each, £300. Hinaris 800watt microwave, brand new, still in box £30. Pine 5 drawer chest and bookcase, standing oval mirror and headboard £120. Tel: 01656 795873. (43)

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CARDIFF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN SCHOOLS'
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TRELAI PARK, CARDIFFCowbridge's Kristian
produces top running
performance at Trelai

KRISTIAN JONES produced the top performance by a Vale boy at the second Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' cross-country league for boys.

On a Trelai Park course still in very firm condition, the Cowbridge year-7 pupil and his team-mate Ellis Rosser improved on their showing in the opening league fixture, when they were fourth and seventh respectively, to claim the top two places in the under-12 race, held over a longer course.

That foundation ensured an improvement for the Cowbridge squad but it was only good enough for second place behind Whitchurch, who have now won both fixtures and head the league.

In the under-14 race, Elliott Richards (Stanwell) again headed the Vale contingent. In the opening fixture, he finished fourth but here the year-9 improved to second place behind the double winner, Jack Gooch of Radyr.

If he can avoid illness and injury over the winter months, and balance academic studies with his cross-country training programme, then Cowbridge year-11 Elliott Mears is one of the local runners with a real chance of gaining schools' international honours next March.

It was particularly encouraging to find him finishing third in the senior boys' race.

In the team competitions, with one fixture left in January, Bro Morgannwg have the best chance of winning an age group.

They head the senior section from Llanishen, both schools having 39 league points, with the Vale school heading the competition thanks to a place points score of 1055 to the 1034 of their north Cardiff rivals.

Bro Morgannwg are second in the under-14 section but the leaders, Llanishen, are four points clear and it would require a major disaster for them to be defeated. In the under-12 competition, the unbeaten Whitchurch squad have 50 points, Llanishen are second with 46 points (1886 place points) with Cowbridge also on 46, but with an inferior number of place points (1846).

The next major fixture on the schools' programme is the Welsh Schools' Inter Schools' championships, which will be held at Brecon on Saturday, November 14.

The age groups will be different from the schools' league - under-14 (years 7 and 8), under-16 (years 9 and 10) and under-19 (years 11, 12 and 13) - to provide a last chance to gain selection for the South Wales teams to compete at the Welsh Inter Regional championships, to be held at Builth Wells on Sunday, December 13.

Senior Boys - 4840m - 117 finishers; 3 Elliott Mears (Cow) 17:20; 9 Rory Heslop (Bro M) 17:50; 10 Dan Lewis (StC) 17:55; 11 Darren Jones (Lwt) 17:59; 13 Dominic Farr (Bro M) 18:06; 15 Rhys George (Bro M) 18:07; 18 Matthew Edwards (Barry) 18:33; 20 Callum Barrie (Barry) 18:37; 22 Joe Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 18:51; 25 John Davies (Cow) 19:01; 29 Dan Ruffle (Lwt); 30 Joshua Thomas (Cow); 32 Morgan Preece (Bro M); 36 Alex Simon (Lwt); 37 Dan Owen (Lwt); 39 Joseph Swain (Bro M); 40 Ieuan Donovan (Bro M); 42 Dafydd James-Isaac (Lwt); 45 William Elliott (Cow); 46 Tom Howles (Lwt); 47 Matt Robinson (Lwt); 49 Ben Bryl (Bro M); 52 Matthew Sullivan (Cow); 58 Abdul Boulalaiche (StC); 59 Dillon Morgan (Cow); 60 Huw Meredith (Bro M); 61 Kyle Garrison (Barry Coll); 64 Matthew Roan (StC); 65 Jack Grew (Lwt); 66 Rhys Allin (Cow); 69 Mitch Bryl (Bro M); 70 Adam Hewitt (Cow); 71 Keiron Sansom (StC); 72 Matthew Metaph (Bro M); 73 Elliott Parry (Lwt); 75 Tom Kamal (Cow); 78 Oliver Crosby (Lwt); 79 Lewis Jones (Cow); 80 Oliver Claydon (Bro M); 81 Michael Lloyd (Cow); 83 Joe Briscoe (Bro M); 84 Michael Iles (Bro M); 85 Steffan Kitchen (Cow); 86 Steff Griffin (Bro M); 87 Stewart Fleming (Cow); 88 Louis Evans (Bro M); 93 Jonathan Esquirol (Cow); 94 Jack Pritchard (Bro M); 96 Michael Rosser (Cow); 97 Ioan Williams (Bro M); 98 Davy Davies (Bro M); 99 David Potts (Bro M); 100 Jon Conkey (Lwt); 102 Tom Parker (Lwt); 105 Emyr George (Bro M); 106 Luke Aspinall (Cow); 107 Xavier Rickard (Cow); 109 Jamie Livingstone (Lwt); 112 Harry Foster (Bro M); 114 Andrew Ott (Westbourne)

Teams: 2 Bro Morgannwg 578; 5 Llantwit 507; 6 Cowbridge 494; 10 St Cyres 269; 12 Barry 198; 14 Barry College 57; 15 Westbourne 4

Teams after 2 fixtures: 1 Bro Morgannwg 39 (1055); 3 Llantwit 32 (883); 4 Cowbridge 32 (875); 9 St Cyres 22; 11 Barry Comprehensive 19; 13 Westbourne 15; 15 Barry College 7.

Under-14 Boys - 3200m - 148 finishers; 2 Elliott Richards (Stan) 12:04; 7 Ben Owen (Lwt) 12:26; 11 Harri Williams (Bro M) 12:45; 12 Dafydd George (Bro M) 12:47; 14 Sam Corria (StRichG) 12:53; 15 Chris Brace (Cow) 13:02; 17 Cameron Jones (Cow) 13:06; 18 Tom Owen (Cow) 13:11; 21 Matt Collins (Barry) 13:06; 29 Tom Griffiths (Bro M) 13:28; 36 Jake Bosza (Westbourne); 43 Jason Sami (Cow); 46 Ieuan Jones (Stan); 48 Lewis Thomas (Bro M); 49 Arran Bright (Lwt); 51 Gareth Hurman (Barry); 54 Sam Laity (Westbourne); 58 Rowan Miller (Lwt); 59 Curtis Hayes (Barry); 61 Curtis Matthews (Bro M); 62 Gareth Picher (Bro M); 68 Tomas Harvad (StC); 70 Matthew Bennett (Bro M); 74 Rhys Crosby (Lwt); 76 Lloyd Creed (Barry); 77 Andrius Stephanovas (Barry); 81 Miles Jenkins (Cow); 84 Gethin Evans (Bro M); 88 Ieuan Orton (Bro M); 99 Taylor Harris (Bro M); 100 Tom Rawlings (Lwt); 104 Deon Garrison (Lwt); 106 Kieran Thomas (Barry); 107 Cory Rowlands (Bro M); 109 Jon Miles (Barry); 111 Iori Moore (Westbourne); 115 Hatim Shami (Cow); 116 Rhys Thomas (Bro M); 122 Jacob Frost (Stan); 124 Joe Russell (Cow); 133 Daniel Bell (StRichG); 136 Ben Brown (Lwt); 138 Chad Travis (Barry)

Teams: 4 Bro Morgannwg 671; 5 Cowbridge 605; 7 Barry 504; 8 Llantwit 502; 14 Stanwell 277; 16 Westbourne 246; 19 St Richard Gwyn 151; 22 St Cyres 81

Teams after 2 fixtures: 2 Bro Morgannwg 46; 5 Cowbridge 42; 6 Barry Comprehensive 38; 8 Llantwit 33; 13 Stanwell 26 (613); 14 Westbourne 26 (664); 17 St Richard Gwyn 18; 21 St Cyres 12

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08 Astra SXi 1.4 16v 3dr Sporthatch, Silver Lightning, 28,000 miles	£8795		08 Meriva 1.3 CDTi Life 5dr in Silver, 9,500 miles	£9495		09 Corsa 1400 Design AUTO 5dr in Silver, 8,000 miles ..	£10995	
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57 Astra SRI 1.6 Turbo Sport Hatch 3dr, in Black, 14,367 miles	£9995		VECTRA/INSIGNIA/SIGNUM			04 Peugeot 206 1.2 Fever 5dr in Silver, 25,000 miles	£4495	
57 Astra 1.9 CDTi 150 Sporthatch SRI in Blue	£10995		57 Vectra Design 1.8 5dr in Pannacotta, 18,252 miles ..	£8295		53 Ford Fiesta 1.4 LX 3dr in Black, 25,000 miles	£4695	
58 Astra 1600 Elite 5dr in Silver Lightning, 24,000 miles ..	£10695		08 Vectra 1.8 Life 5dr Choice from	£8295		56 Citroen C3 Desire 1400 in Blue, 30,000 miles	£5995	
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54 Corsa 1.2 Life 5dr in Spearmint Silver 48,000 miles ..	£4495		08 Vectra 1.9 150 SRI CDTi AUTO Estate in Silver, 22,000 miles	£11495		06 Peugeot 206 1.6 5dr in Grey, 31,000 miles	£6995	
57 Corsa Design CDTi 1.7 3dr DIESEL, Blue, 12,084 miles ..	£9495		09 Insignia SRI 2000 160 CDTi in Black sat nav 16,000 miles	£17495		06 Renault Clio 1.6 Dynamique 3dr Black, 39,000 miles ..	£6995	
08 Corsa Club 1.2 5dr	Choice from £8495		ZAFIRA			56 Renault Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3dr in Silver, 32,000 miles ..	£6995	
08 Corsa Club 1.2 5dr, in Silver Lightning, 15,900 miles ..	£7695		06 Zafira 1.6 Club 5dr 7-seater in Blue Metallic, 35,000 miles	£7495		08 Nissan Micra Tekna 1200 5dr Choice from	£8295	
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58 Corsa 1.3 CDTi SXi 5dr A/C Choice	from £9995		58 Zafira 1.6 Exclusiv in Blue, 18,000 miles	£10995				



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VALE KARATE NEWS ROUND-UP

Busy time for karate students as they compete in tournaments



ABOVE: Some of the Vale Karate's Kata competitors at the Welsh Open championships.

THE Home Nations Karate Grand Slam was hosted by Ireland's governing body for Karate ONAKAI in Dublin, with two of Vale Karate's squad representing Wales.

Kumite coach Gareth Reynolds was once again included in the Welsh men's team, as Natasha Paton made her full international debut for the Welsh ladies team.

The men had a torrid time and although putting together some good performances, they couldn't quite perform as they hoped and left without silverware – Ireland being the surprise winners.

Tasha went on to be Wales' only unbeaten fighter, as she won all three of her fights, helping Wales to second place.

UK OPEN

STOURBRIDGE was the venue for the UK Open.

Kloe Christoforato has established herself as one of Britain's best under-10 Kata competitors, and in Stourbridge, Kloe was competing in the under-10 mixed category and had to settle for silver, beaten in the final by England's impressive Michael Holmes.

Vale Karate's first gold medal of the day was, however, assured as Chloe Fry and Bradley Christoforato progressed to meet in the final of the 10-12 mixed Kata, beating some excellent competitors on the way. Bradley earned the majority of flags to take his long-overdue first title of the year!

The senior Kata 'double' was sealed with Andrew Kaniyas and Sarah Morgan proving too good for the opposition, winning the men's

and ladies titles respectively. Matthew Hill was also on form, taking the 16 and 17 Kata gold.

The 17th and final title of the day was won by Nick Sherrin, who came through five tough rounds, showing determination and courage to take the boys 10-12 Kumite title.

WELSH BUSHI-KAI

MORE than 60 Vale Karate students entered The Welsh Bushi-Kai Championships, winning a couple of dozen medals in the process.

Vale Karate have taken huge strides in the area of karate for young people with disabilities and special needs, and The Welsh Bushi-Kai are one of several tournament organisers who have embraced the initiative.

Once again, the category was a success, with Vale Karate students filling all four podium spots. Zak Abdulrahman took gold ahead of Courtney Lloyd in silver medal position with James Jones and Asa Madsen taking bronzes.

In the mainstream events, Nick Sherrin was once again a champion, this time in Kata, earning the 10-12 'advanced' section gold.

The men's adult kata was an all-Vale final with Rob Green, instructor of Vale Karate's 'St Pats' group of clubs, victorious after a close match with the Vale's Lee Morgan!

Sarah Morgan took her second successive gold medal, beating team-mate Tasha Paton in the ladies final. With four Kata titles in the bag, the Vale's Kumite competitors had a lot to live up to and didn't disappoint.

The girls were domi-

nant as Lucille Ibsi, (under-10s) Chloe Fry (under-12s) and Demi White (under-14s) all won!

WELSH OPEN

MORE than 50 competitors attended the Welsh Open championships where 23 medals were won, including four golds.

The first came from Andrew Kaniyas, instructor of the Vale's Kansei Clubs, who won the men's Kata.

Vale Karate also earned silver and bronze from Kloe Christoforato and Ewan Albright in their respective under-10 categories and bronzes from Leah Copeland in the ladies, from Nadia and Nimo Liban in Kloe's under-10 girls event, and from Jessica Kinson in the girls 10-12 section.

Brooklyn Peckham won his 10th title of the year in the under-12 -45Kg Kumite event, taking him level with Chloe Fry, only for Chloe to then take her 11th by winning the under-12 girls -35Kg category!

The final of the under-18 -76kg event featured two athletes who will be representing their respective nations, England and Wales at the World Championships in Morocco next month. Vale Karate's Rhys Davies and Alex Sell.

A close match ended in a draw and so was followed by the new 'Sai Shiai' rule, another one-minute match. Rhys dug deep and emerged a clear winner.

Rhys is one of four Vale Karate squad members among the 10-strong Welsh squad competing at the World under-21 championships in Morocco next month.

Lancarfan's Evan Williams said he was disappointed but not downhearted after his Cappa Bleu, ridden by the legendary A P McCoy, could only finish last of the three finishers in the Haloween At Matalan Novices' Chase at Aintree on Sunday.

He said the Cheltenham Foxhunters winner is really a three mile-plus horse and that the two horses who fin-

LOCAL GOLFER TAKES PRIZE IN CHARITY TOURNAMENT

JUNIOR golfers from clubs across south Wales recently played in the first-ever Junior Golf Championship, organised by The Joshua Foundation and sponsored by Sony UK.

Held at Cottrell Park, 14-year-old Cameron Sleeth (from the home club) beat off tough competition from 20 other youngsters to take the title of The Joshua Foundation Junior Golf champion, 2009.

Sarah Cornelius, the chief executive of The Joshua Foundation, said: "The day was an overwhelming success and helped to raise some much-needed funds for the charity. I would like to say a big thank you to all clubs who took part in this year's competition."

Second place was taken by Joe Gibbs of Bargoed Golf Club after a back-nine count-back against Cameron, following a 40-point tie. Third

place was awarded to Callum Matthews, from Radyr Golf Club. All top three competitors received a gift from sponsor Sony UK.

The juniors represented their own golf clubs, having won a qualifying competition earlier in the year.

Thirteen-year-old Cameron started playing golf three years ago when he went with a friend to a golf lesson. He picked up a club and found that he had a natural talent for the game.

His coach, John Hastings, believes that, as one of the best young golfers he has taught, he has huge potential and expects to see a rapid drop in his handicap, currently 16.

Sony UK Technology Centre, managing director, Steve Dalton, said: "We are delighted to have adopted the Joshua Foundation as our charity this year and were thrilled to be involved in their first-ever Junior Golf Championship. Events like these are a

great way of involving young children in charity work in a way that is both fun and enjoyable."

The Joshua Foundation was created in September 1998 to provide holidays and experiences for children and their families where the child is diagnosed with terminal cancer. The Joshua Foundation celebrated its 10th anniversary on December 4, 2008, and in the 10 years since the charity was founded, it has raised £5 million and helped more than 250 children.



Winner Cameron Sleeth with Nicky Piper.

Mark gets a 'poultry' total of 47 to triumph

IN the Men's Christmas Poultry Stableford at Wenvoe Castle GC, Christmas came early for the winner, Mark Donovan who 'roasted' the field with a remarkable 47 points.

Andy Taylor also scored well to take second place with 41. The competition attracted a

large entry of 131.

The October Medal was played in almost monsoon weather, and 71 players braved extremely difficult and very wet conditions.

The winner was Ryan Cox, who finished with a remarkable gross score of 75 (net 65). In second place was John Harding, the only other player to beat par with a net 70.

October Stableford: Young Sam Harris continues to improve his game week by week and, despite a tumbling handicap, managed to post another winning score. He won the October Stableford with 41 points, just ahead of Craig Regan with 40.

Seniors Stableford: Club captain Brian Green's almost continual practice finally paid off in winning the Seniors Stableford. His score of 38 points was a significant improvement in form and was just enough to squeeze out Roger Thomas, who finished with a very creditable 37.

Ladies Stableford: The Ladies section took part in an 18-hole Stableford in tough conditions. Sheila Morrow took first prize with an excellent 34 points, closely followed by Lynda Campbell, who took second with 32.

Vaughan maintains run of form with a double

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

A BERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan kept up his remarkable run of winners with a 97-1 week-end double.

On Saturday at Stratford, his four-year-old *Slip* ran out a six lengths winner of the Totesport.Com Maiden Hurdle under Bernie Wharfe and on Sunday at Wincanton his eight-year-old bay mare *Lucky Pearl*, partnered by Llanharan's Tom David, was a length winner of the Who Do You Think You Are Handicap Hurdle.

Ogmore's cheeky chappie, Christian Williams, riding the Paul Nicholls' trained *Pepe Simo*, won the appropriately named Paul Nicholls Racing NH Novices' Hurdle.

The Totesport Lady Riders Handicap Hurdle at Stratford was won by Craig Roberts' *Dreams Jewel* ridden by Welsh lady champion point-to-point rider Isabel Tompsett.

The runner-up, *Daring Racer*, is trained by Tim Vaughan and was ridden by Jodie Hughes.

Lancarfan's Evan Williams said he was disappointed but not downhearted after his Cappa Bleu, ridden by the legendary A P McCoy, could only finish last of the three finishers in the Haloween At Matalan Novices' Chase at Aintree on Sunday.

He said the Cheltenham Foxhunters winner is really a three mile-plus horse and that the two horses who fin-

ished in front of him were very good horses.

On a sad note, Evan's mother Mary Evans, recently found her prolific point-to-point winner *Timber Tool* dead in a field at her Pembrokehire farm.

An exuberant front-running horse, *Timber Tool* was the first winner of the Daily Telegraph Cup in 1990 when he won 11 of his 12 races.

The only horse to beat him that season was the highly-regarded *Katesville*. *Timber Tool*, who was 29 years old, was ridden mostly by Tim Rooney and won 28 races all told, including 20 men's open races and three ladies' open races.

TIM'S HAT-TRICK

Abertin trainer Tim Vaughan, who is enjoying his best-ever season, saddled three winners at Fakenham last Friday and all three were ridden by stable jockey Richard Johnson.

Seven-year-old *Bally Storm* started the ball rolling when winning the Racing Welfare Novices' Hurdle, then

four-year-old *Doctor Robert* won the Jim Welch Lifetime In Racing Handicap Hurdle, and seven-year-old *Chapel Flowers* landed the 1824 Handicap Chase.

TOM'S LUDLOW WIN

Tom David, (18) from Llanharan, riding the Tim Vaughan-trained *Stoneriggs Merc*, landed the Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase at Ludlow last Thursday.

The six-year-old, who started the 6-4 favourite got home by a head from *BackfromtheCongo*.

ARTHUR'S EDGE

Cowbridge trainer, Bryn Palling, took the Red Mills Trainers Championship Handicap at Brighton last Thursday with *Arthur's Edge*, who scored by one and a half lengths from *Lochan Mor*.

In a field of 15 runners, *Arthur's Edge*, partnered by Welsh jockey David Probert, who is challenging for the apprentice jockeys title, went off the 9-2 favourite.

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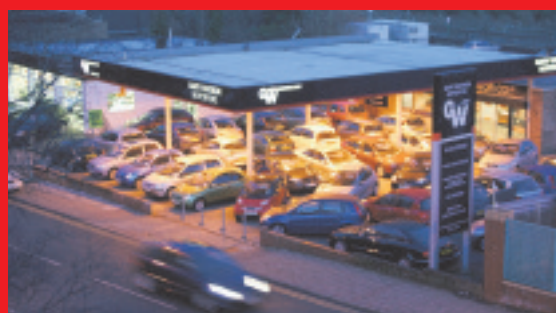
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ABOVE: Vale Karate's special needs medallists at the Welsh Bushi-Kai championships.



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- 02 02 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Privilege 5-dr Hatchback. In Nordic green with vertigo grey interior, air con, sd, electric 5 belted seats, body coloured bumpers, power steering, only 38,940 miles £2,995
- 02 02 DAEWOO Matiz 0.8 SE 5-Dr. In super red with grey interior, CD, immobiliser, body coloured bumpers, driver and passenger airbags, only 30,288 miles £2,495
- 02 02 DAEWOO Matiz 0.8 SE 5-Dr Hatchback. In Cobalt blue with grey interior, immobiliser, power steering, alloy coded bumpers, service history, only 30,610 miles £2,295
- L 93 AUSTIN Mini 1.3 Sprite 2-dr Saloon Automatic. In night fire red with grey interior, all original specification, only 47,215 miles £2,995



04 54 RENAULT Megane 1.5 DCI 100 Dynamique 3-Dr Hatchback. In capsicum red with Ruche charcoal interior, rear parking sensors, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 37,460 miles £5,295



04 54 PEUGEOT 206 SW 2.0 HDi 90 XSi 5-dr Estate. China blue, black/grey merlin interior, a/c, body coloured bumpers, cd, alloys, only 45,796 miles £5,995



04 04 RENAULT Megane 1.9 DCI 120 Dynamique 5-Dr Hatchback. In metallic silver, with anthracite interior, alloy wheels, CD, colour coded bumpers, air con, only 42,955 miles £5,995



04 54 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 16v Club. In royal blue with Tabita charcoal interior, alloy wheels, multi-function steering wheel, air con, CD, only 45,135 miles £5,495



06 06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 16V SE 5-dr Hatchback. In hurricane grey with Ikho black interior, front fog lights, multi CD, air con, rear parking sensors, only 40,018 miles £6,995



04 04 TOYOTA Avenis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon. Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles £7,495



04 04 FORD Ka 1.3 Style 3-Dr Hatchback. In moon dust silver with digit anthracite interior, CD, power steering, colour coded bumpers, only 48,656 miles £3,495



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08 1.4 HDi VTR 3dr Diesel Hatch	Black	9,900 miles	£8,995	
57 1.1i Cool 3dr Hatch Sp Eds	Black	19,555 miles	£6,495	
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56 1.6 HDi 16v SX 5dr Dsl Hatch	Silver	19,000 miles	£8,295	
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06 1.6i 16v VTR 3dr Coupe	Red	13,183 miles	£7,995	

CITROËN C4 PICASSO				
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06 2.0 16v VTX 5dr Auto Estate	Blue	30,000 miles	£8,595	
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58 1000 1.6 HDi 90 H1 Van L1 Dsl	White	3,200 miles	£10,354	

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05 Renault Modus 1.5 DCI 80 Dynamique in red met. DIESEL, only 47,000 miles. Low tax+ins. Loaded, alloys, a/c £5,995



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03	53 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 SE FSi 86.	5 dr, manual 5 speed, hatchback, petrol, 28k, met silver, ABS, a/c	£3,995
03	53 FORD Fiesta Hatchback 1.4 Flame.	5 dr, met green, fsh, cd, pas, rcl, e/w, alarm, 38k	£3,995
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04	54 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Expression.	3 dr, met silver, sunroof, cd, fsh, rcl, full electrics	£3,595
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01	PP VAUXHALL Astra 2.2 16v Convertible.	2 dr, 98k, met silver, ABS, a/c, alloy wheels	£3,295
00	W VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.6 GTi.	3 dr, manual 5 speed, 66k, met silver	£3,295
97	P SUBARU Impreza STI 2.0 Turbo Version 3.	4 dr, 84k, white, 1 owner, abs, climate, alarm	£3,295
02	02 TOTOTA Corolla Verso 1.8 VVTi T Spirit.	5 dr, manual 5 speed, estate, petrol, 120k, met silver, ABS, alloys	£2,795
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6 SPEED



02 52 MINI Cooper S 1.6
3 dr, 6 speed, 65k, met blue, ABS, alloys.

SPORT



02 52 AUDI A4 1.9 TDI 130 Quattro Sport
4 dr, manual, saloon, 130k, met grey, ABS, alloys, lumbar support, passenger airbag

DIESEL



01 X BMW 330d Sport Diesel
4 dr, manual, 5 speed, saloon, 111k, met silver, e/w, heated seats.

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03 53 CITROEN C2 1.6i 16v VTR SensoDrive. 3 dr, **auto**, 58k, silver, ABS, alloys, cruise, immob, warranted



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93	K AUDI S2.	3 dr, manual 6 speed, coupe, petrol, 80k, met green, multi airbags,	£3,995
04	54 FIAT Punto 1.2 Active.	5 dr, 50k, blue, fsh	£3,495
96	P TOYOTA Prado Landcruiser SWB 3.0 Diesel.	3 dr, manual 5 speed, all terrain, 50k, met green over silver, multi airbags, new shape, fsh	£3,495
01	01 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.9 S TDi	5 dr, Diesel, 75k, met black, abs	£3,295
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03	52 NISSAN Micra 1.2S	3 dr, 62k, blue, abs, immobiliser, warranted mileage	£2,895
04	54 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.0 12v Life.	3 dr, met blue, rcl, cd, pas,	£2,795
01	01 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4E	3 dr, 53k, met silver, abs, central locking, immobiliser	£2,795
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00	X AUDI A4 1.8 T Sport	4 dr, manual 5 speed, saloon, petrol, 82k, blue, fsh, abs, alloys, immob	£2,495
03	03 CITROEN Saxo 1.6i VTR	3 dr, 74k, met black, full main dealer service history	£2,495
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03	52 MG ZS.	1.8 120+, 55k, 2 owners, abs, alloys	£1,895
01	51 PEUGEOT 306 1.8 Meridian.	5 Door Estate, met silver, a/c	£1,695
01	Y FORD Ka 1.3i.	3 dr, manual 5 speed, hatchback, petrol, 85k, met blue, adjustable seats, full size spare wheel, low ins	£1,395
95	N VOLKSWAGEN Golf GTi.	3 dr, silver, taxed, mot'd, 120k	£1,295
97	R RENAULT Clio 1.2 RN Provence.	3 dr, manual, hatchback, petrol, 90,000 miles, black, 3 owners, ABS, electric windows, multi function steering wheel	£995
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99	V FIESTA 1.25 Zetec.	3 dr, met silver, fsh, alloy wheels, rcl and pas.	£895
99	T FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec.	3 dr, manual, hatchback, petrol, blue, 2 owners, adjustable steering column/wheel, anti theft system	£795
97	P VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 auto.	3 dr, white, radio/cd, 64k	£795
96	N VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.8GL.	5 dr, blue, rcl, full service history, e/w, pas, sunroof	£795
93	K HONDA Civic ESI.	5 dr, met red, rcl, electric windows, electric sunroof	£695

DIESEL



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GEM sport

Successful week's work for Cowbridge's squash teams

WEEK four of the regional and county squash leagues saw all three of the Cowbridge squash teams win their respective fixtures to consolidate or improve their league positions.

Cowbridge A Bar 44 faced their most stern test to date at Llantrisant B and despite a sticky start, ran out 4-1 winners.

With the loss of James Page's services due to employment relocation, Colin Giles (C team No 1) slotted in at No 5 but he went down 1-3.

Jon Bisson (No 2) and Niall Sloan (No 4) both found themselves down 1-2 but both fought through to win their matches 3-2.

Garfield Leask posted a 3-1 victory, while Welsh over-45s international Nick Guard rounded the

match off with a solid 3-0 win to secure a 17-8 points victory.

This keeps Cowbridge A Bar 44 top of their South Wales Division, setting up a table-topping clash with Caldicot B in their next fixture.

Barry Leisure A were the visitors for Cowbridge B Bar 44 and another keenly-contested match saw Cowbridge win 4-1 to maintain their 100 per cent record.

Chris Harris at No 5, justified his selection with a 3-1 win.

The No 3 position saw Steve Morris achieve another victory to maintain his unbeaten record with a 3-1 result.

Colin Baxter (No 4) put in his usual solid performance, but found himself edged out 2-3 after being 2-1 up, and so relying on team-mates Chris Ranger (No 2) and Simon Payne (No 1) to secure the points; they both did this in style with 3-0

victories - match result 18-5.

After a couple of poor weeks, Cowbridge C turned their season round with a win over Cardiff University B.

Mike Burnett, at No 5, continued his good form with a 3-1 win, while Phil Matthews posted a creditable 3-0 to set up Tony Steele, Dave Matthews and Colin Giles to finish the job, which they managed with varying degrees of success.

Both Tony and Colin battled through to 3-2 victories while Dave continues to find some form at No 2, going down 0-3 - match result 16-8.

This week, the As entertain Caldicot B in a first versus second clash at the Cowbridge Athletic Ground courts at 7pm (Thursday).

The Bs travel to Old Pens while the C team are away at Llanishen C, also on Thursday. **RW**

LATE TRY SALVAGES POINT FOR VISITORS ALL SQUARE AT ATHLETIC FIELD AS DINAS HOLD COWBRIDGE TO A DRAW

DINAS POWYS were the visitors to the Athletic Field to face Cowbridge, and in blustery conditions the teams battled to a 10-10 draw.

The result was disappointing for Cowbridge since this was a game they thought they could win, but fair play to Dinas they battled to the final whistle to earn the draw.

The Second XV were not in action because of a problem with a referee at the Llanrhumney end, so all attention turned to the First XV.

Cowbridge were three points down within a minute as, from the Dinas kick off, Cowbridge failed to secure the ball and when it was recycled on the Dinas side their outside half dropped a neat goal from 35 metres.

The game then remained evenly balanced until an unfortunate mouth injury to Cowbridge outside half Harry Davies.

This was to cause some disruption, with Leigh Humphrey coming off the wing to scrum half and Rob Carney taking Davies' place at No 10.

Steve Mytton came on to the wing, but despite this Cowbridge were next to score, with Carney slipping the ball to inside centre Huw Rees, who took an excellent line to break the defence and then link with co-centre Huw Loughran and send him in near the posts.

The conversion was somewhat bizarre with Ed Lakin being timed out after two attempts to place the ball back on the tee in the strong wind.

Five minutes later, on the 25-minute mark, Dinas were nearly in at corner with only the combined defence of Carney and Loughran keeping the winger out. **Half time score 5-3 to Cowbridge.**

In the second half the game was scrappy and, after 15 minutes, young David Rees at flanker gave way to Carwyn Lewis.

While Cowbridge came under some pressure in the scrum, the lineup was excellent with front jumper Gareth Ward and middle jumper Steve Birchenough having great games, and also in the loose.

Dinas missed a penalty chance and, at the half way point, lost their hooker to the sin bin for bringing a jumper down in the lineout.

Minutes later a try went begging after good

initial drives by Birchenough and No 8 Rhys Jones set up a ruck from which the ball went right, but the final pass from prop Luke Denham to winger Jamie Gibson, who was clear, went forward. Then, on the 30-minute mark a lineout on the Dinas 22 wasn't held, and from the resulting scrum Rhys Jones picked up and charged down the blindside.

As the ruck formed the alert Denham, who had already had several good runs, picked up and burst down the blind to score. Lakin's conversion was difficult from the touchline and didn't quite make it.

For the final 10 minutes Josh Lewis came onto the wing for Mytton.

Dinas then missed another penalty but got their reward with just five minutes to go when a missed tackle on the left allowed Dinas to move the ball across field for the right winger to score a converted try.

Mike Hurford, who was playing at hooker, covered huge amounts of ground, and in the dying moments, Cowbridge had two penalty chances to win the game but both went wide.

Dinas tried to run the second from near their line, but winger Gibson had chased hard and put in a great tackle on their centre only yards from the line.

As support came the ball just managed to stay out of reach, and moments later the whistle went.

Full time score: 10-10.

In reality, Cowbridge had promised much but hadn't delivered.

There is more than enough talent in the squad, since there were four or five more players not available to add to overall strength.

The new players, Gareth Ward at No 6,

Huw Rees at inside centre, who took a knock at the day, but normally a centre, certainly looks another find, but overall the team lacked a spark and conceded penalties when the first warning from the referee should have been heeded.

Captain Birchenough, who took a knock at the end, had given his all but veteran Hurford, who accepted the challenge to play hooker, had to take pride of place, leaving many younger players on both sides in his slipstream.

Once the team gels the results will come. Congratulations to second row Alex Lewis who made his team debut, and did very well.

The Youth had an excellent win away at Sully by 3-25. There were two tries for wing Tom Johnson, the second a special one in that it started from Cowbridge's own line, was taken up by the forwards and ended in Johnson crossing the line at the end.

Centre Nick Davies, also scored a try, Mike Lloyd converted two and added a penalty. The situation this week is fluid, so all players are asked to contact the club. The First XV are likely to be in action, in a rearranged fixture at Penrygraig.

The Second XV should also have a fixture, details will be available in the week. The Youth are at home to Fairwater, and all support would be welcome. Bonfire night is to be held at the club on November 5, with bonfires due to be lit at about 6.15pm, but watch for more details. As always, everyone is very welcome. **RV/RK**

COWBRIDGE MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP

Cowbridge juniors in local derbies

A MUCH-depleted Cowbridge under-7s travelled to take on Pontyclun.

The boys showed that the lessons learnt in the previous games were being put to good effect and there was a much improved passing game.

Unfortunately, the defensive work still has some way to go as the boys once again gifted some soft tries to the opposition.

The well-drilled Pontyclun team scored some well-taken tries and proved better taggers for a well-deserved 7-5 victory.

However, some great individual performances lifted the side to a respectable score - that first win is not far away.

Try scorers: Theo Bancroft, Harri Howkins.

Full squad: Theo Bancroft, Sam Coates, Ioan Davies, Robbie Hawkins, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarman, Iwan Thomas, Jacob Williams.

Under-8s in round robin

The first game for Cowbridge in this round robin fixture was against Bridgend Sports.

Both teams got off to a lively start with plenty of good running. Cowbridge worked hard on their tagging and managed to win some good turnovers, kept their work rate up and created some well-worked tries.

Despite great pressure from Bridgend, the team kept ahead to run out winners.

After a long wait, Cowbridge then played Pontyclun. This was a very close match again.

Some great tagging work kept Cowbridge in the hunt. A few early lapses in concentration allowed Pontyclun to lead at half-time.

In the second half, Cowbridge upped their concentration levels and made a good match - narrowly losing out in the end.

Try scorers: Tomos apjohn-Williams, Jac Burne, William Hawkins, Huw Jones, Jamie Owen, Miles Thomas, Edward Thomas, Jack Tudor.

Full squad: Tomos apjohn-Williams, Jac Burne, Elis Howells, William Hawkins, Rory James, Joshua John, Huw Jones, Lewis Jones, Ben Lloyd, Jamie Owen, Miles Thomas, Edward Thomas, Jack Tudor, Rhodri Vickers.

Under-9s

The under-9s kept up their winning ways with two superb performances against Bridgend Sports and Pontyclun.

The first game saw the boys up against the hosts, Bridgend Sports. From the outset, it was clear that Cowbridge were too powerful for the Bridgend boys, and the Vale youngsters produced some dazzling rugby to run out 5-1 winners.

It was a tighter affair against Pontyclun, but the coaches used the opportunity to give all the boys good game time. At the end of the match, the final score read **Cowbridge 4 Pontyclun 2** to round off a fantastic morning for the boys.

Full squad: Iestyn Fenn, Ioan Williams, Bart Norton, Ben Jones, Ben Batten, Luke Martyn, Will Tuckwell, Evan Thomas, Lewis Hawke, Harry Edwards, Barney, Gabriel, Joseph, Jack Dixon, Will Jones.

Crossed lines for under-10s

On a wet and windy morning, Cowbridge under-10s went to Bridgend to face the Sports.

The first action of the day saw both clubs field their development sides. The first half kicked off with Cowbridge enjoying the advantage of a strong wind at their backs.

As the game settled down, the Cowbridge boys were camped in the Sports half. The early action saw a forwards battle and on the rare occasion the Cowbridge backs saw the ball, the Sports defence was excellent.

In the second half, the Cowbridge forwards were far more aggressive at the break down, allowing the excellent half-back pairing of Evan Williams and Liam Murphy to dictate the play. Liam Murphy opened the scoring with a superb solo effort.

This was quickly followed by a try for the returning Brian Howells and a third from James Guard. Cowbridge were enjoying the majority of the possession and further scores from Bevan Williams and Evan Williams resulted in a final score of **Bridgend Sports 0 Cowbridge 25.**

The second game saw nine changes to the Cowbridge line up, as the boys started with the advantage of the strong wind. From the start, Cowbridge set the tone with Bevan Howells gathering Rhys Bradshaw's kick. The forwards were quick and aggressive at the break down, allowing good quality ball to be moved through the back line.

The Cowbridge boys were proving to be superior in all aspects of play and the inevitable first try came with Rhys Bradshaw touching down in the corner. From the restart, the Cowbridge boys secured the first of several turnovers and

released Elliot Bancroft to sprint over the line to extend the lead.

Unfortunately, the try line markings were a little confusing and the ball was carried over the dead ball area. The try was disallowed and the Sports awarded a five-metre scrum. Once again, the boys regained possession and Rhidian Williams raced clear of the defence, only to duplicate the earlier error and once again carry over the dead ball line.

Despite these set backs, the boys continued to dominate and with further scores from Elliot Bancroft and Bevan Howells secured a half-time lead of 15-0.

The second half saw the boys now playing into the wind, but this did little to detract from a superb display of attacking rugby.

All of the action was in the Sports 22, with the opposition reduced to kicking what little possession they had away. From one such passage of play, Elliot Bancroft fielded a kick and scorched past the Sports defence, to extend the lead. Bevan Howells then added the fifth try of the match, before the final whistle blew for a final score of **Bridgend Sports 0 Cowbridge 25.**

Full squad: Angus James, Bevan Howells, Dan Marshall, Dan Taylor, Dylan Lloyd-Doyle, Elliot Bancroft, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, James Guard, Liam Murphy, Luc Beattie, Max Cunningham, Max Lucas, Rhidian Williams, Rhys Bradshaw, Tom Jose, William Rees Davies.

Under-11s Cowbridge under-11s completed a comprehensive win in a double-header at Bridgend

Sports, beating the hosts and Pontyclun in convincing fashion.

Cowbridge 42 - Bridgend Sports 0. Six tries were scored by James Holder (two), Harry Hopkins, Sean Davies, Harrison Stephens and Cai Evans. Conversions - Duncan Ace (three) Cai Evans (three). Outstanding in a dominant pack were Tomos Evan-Williams and Joe Watts, while Mikey Thomas and Toff Patel excelled in the backs.

Cowbridge 49 - Pontyclun 0. Seven tries were scored by Daniel Bunney, James Holder (two), Sam John, Cai Evans and Charlie Pegrum (two).

Conversions Duncan Ace (three), Cai Evans (four). Smooth passing from the Cowbridge backs, with Ollie Rampling and Sam John in fine form, and another strong unit performance from the pack, with Charlie Martin, Josh Evans and Henry John securing valuable possession, saw Cowbridge continue their fine early season form.

BIGGER PACK IS TOO STRONG FOR COWBRIDGE LADIES TEAM

THE Cowbridge Ladies team were given the run around before they even hit the pitch last Sunday, as Whitland were unable to fulfil the scheduled league fixture, so Cowbridge went in search of a game - fortunately, Blaenau Gwent were able to step into the breach.

Cowbridge travelled to Crumlin, where the home team started the game the stronger side due to a formidable pack, which gave their outside-half a platform to work off.

It was these strengths, and numerous drives from line-outs to the Cowbridge line, which resulted in an unconverted try for the hosts. The Cowbridge ladies dug deep

and, with some hard running from Amy Thompson, notched a well-worked try from Suzy Gluck.

Defensively, the Cowbridge team worked hard, particularly the back line who were out of the blocks and in the opposition's faces continually to put the home team under pressure.

The score was level for a long time, with each team trying to pick holes in each other's defence.

Ultimately, though, the big boot of the opposition No 10, and on the day the more powerful pack, put the ladies of Cowbridge under a lot of pressure, which resulted in two and further converted tries in the second half.

Final score: 19-5 to Blaenau Gwent.

Throughout the game, the Cowbridge ladies showed their usual high standard of commitment and determination on the field, using the experience gained to build on future performances.

The team were very grateful to Blaenau Gwent for hosting the game at such short notice.

This Sunday, November 1, the ladies are away to Waunarlwydd, 2.30pm kick-off.

The following week, on November 8, the team will take on Kidwelly at home. All support is welcome and appreciated. **NS/HIL**